‘Dead’ Pinay calls folks in New York on her birthday

Story below, Col. 1

PCGG: Swiss claimant lawyer for Marcoses

By Dona Pazzibugan and Philip Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday shrugged off a Swiss lawyer's claim to the $683-million Marcos Swiss bank accounts.

"He's lawyering for the Marcoses. So what can you expect? *Nanggugulo lang yan* (He's just muddling the issue),"

PCGG/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

AFP launches info blitz

By TJ Burgonio

PANG-KONTRA SA MAY BALAK MAG-OAKWOOD PART 2!

THE ARMED Forces went on a propaganda offensive Thursday night with a TV "infomercial" designed to address complaints of low salary and lack of housing raised by restive junior officers in the military.

AFP/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, August 23, 2003 ★★ 88 pages / 10 sections / vol. 18 / no. 256 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Gringo in INC safehouse

Intel report says religious sect hiding Sen. Honasan

By Fe Zamora, *INQ7.net*

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Suspected coup plotter Sen. Gregorio Honasan showed up at a restaurant here late Sunday night, and even posed for a photograph with employees before meeting with members of the Guardians fraternity, witnesses told the INQUIRER.

"He had a meeting here," a restaurant employee confirmed on Monday.

Honasan must have slipped out for a quick visit to the North from his "safehouse" allegedly provided by the Iglesia ni Cristo in Culiat, Quezon City.

According to an intelligence document obtained by the INQUIRER, the Iglesia ni Cristo has allowed Honasan use of a so-called Pentagon Room at the INC compound.

According to the document, Honasan has been using the "Pentagon Room" as his "command post." He was also using a "ghost cell phone" to avoid being detected by authorities.

The restaurant, a hotel coffee shop, is reportedly owned by a member of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), and the employee was himself a member of the fraternity. PGBI is the Guardians faction Honasan heads.

A woman said she and her children posed for a picture with the senator, who had gone into hiding since proclaiming his innocence in a privileged speech at the Senate last month. But she said she was keeping the picture to herself "to protect my children."

Yesterday, Honasan's lawyer said the opposition senator would surface when there was a "valid" warrant of arrest against him.

"We are not actually worried about a warrant of arrest, because the senator himself told me that if there is a valid warrant of arrest against him, he has to come out," lawyer Daniel Gutierrez said. "But as of now, the senator won't surface because he could be a victim of warrantless arrest."

Gutierrez said he last talked to Honasan on Thursday.

"The ball is now in the government's court to assure him that he won't be arrested," Gutierrez said.

The Tuguegarao hotel where

GRINGO/ A20

THE ROOM in a restaurant of a hotel in Tuguegarao where Sen. Gregorio Honasan reportedly met with the local chapter of the Guardians. BOY CABRIDO

BACK to barracks after listening to the address of President Macapagal Friday night, PMA cadets encounter stormy weather. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA to PMA: I'm married to the country

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—"I am married to our country," Ms Macapagal told the more than 1,000 cadets of the Philippine Military Academy during a hastily scheduled dinner here.

She was referring to her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, who she said would have to face the "Jose Pidal" scandal without the protection of Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal motored to Baguio City yesterday amid heavy rains brought by Typhoon Niña.

"There are insidious attempts to sideswipe the presidency, because nobody has so far dug up anything that will put up my office in bad light," she said.

"That controversy has nothing to do with my work as chief executive. I don't interfere with my husband's private interest, and I do not allow him to interfere with the affairs of the state."

Ms Macapagal said should charges be filed against her husband, "which he hopes will be done, he will mount his legal defense independently."

"Neither he nor anyone . . . in the First Family enjoys the mantle of political protection. I am not going to interfere. The Palace is not a legal refuge of the First Family," she said.

The President said she was presenting to the PMA this position to assure its officials and cadets that her government believes in the ethics that the academy stands for.

As the typhoon howled outside the mess hall, Ms Macapagal also assured the cadets last night that she would not abolish the 104-year-old academy.

She also promised to address the grievances of the Makati mutiny leaders, most of them belonging to the PMA Marilag Class of 1995, about corruption in the military.

"I know that they got the sympathy of many of you," Ms Macapagal said, referring to the leaders of the failed mutiny on July 27.

"It takes great courage to stand out and speak aloud but is this the way?" she asked.

The INQUIRER learned that PMA professors were disturbed by Malacañang pronouncements that proposed the introduction of an an-

GMA/ A20

"JOSE PIDAL" would have to face the scandal all by his lonesome, President Macapagal assured PMA cadets in Baguio on Friday night. EDWIN BACASMAS

Customs officials quit over trial by publicity

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Martin P. Marfil, Clarissa S. Batino and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG yesterday jumped the gun on top officials of the Bureau of Customs by not accepting their "courtesy resignations" even before these could be announced by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and four of the five deputy commissioners at the bureau had tendered their resignations to President Macapagal-Arroyo through Camacho the other night. They apparently resented the way the lifestyle checks on public officials was being conducted by Malacañang.

I don't think we should look at it that way. In fact, I said earlier that we fully support the lifestyle checks being done by the government as a matter of policy. But we just expressed our concerns that there should be due process. There should not be any trial by publicity and there should be clear guidelines or rules of engagement," Bernardo said, when pressed for the real reason for the

CUSTOMS/ A22

PNP clears Mike Arroyo; Ping not surprised

By Christian V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

WHOEVER made the controversial Jose Pidal signature might have attempted to copy the signature of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike Arroyo," an expert from the Philippine National Police told reporters yesterday.

"At first glance, the signatures appear the same but they are not," Dr. Mely Sorra, chief examiner of the PNP Crime Laboratory, said. "It's possible that there was a strong attempt to copy the First Gentleman's signature."

Arroyo's spokesperson Patricia Bunye was quick to jump on the PNP findings, saying the public could now "dismiss as utterly false and malicious the insinuation made by (opposition Sen. Panfilo) Lacson that Arroyo and the Jose Pidal mentioned in the privileged speech are one and the same person."

But Lacson was equally quick to belittle the findings.

"It is not surprising," said Lacson in a statement. "After all, PNP officials are appointees of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and some of them are even closely identified with the presidential spouse.'"

A former PNP chief, Lacson did not say whether it was standard PNP practice to tailor its findings to suit the needs of Malacañang.

He also insisted that there were "similarities in the two signatures." This matter should be

PNP/ A21

Alive in Baghdad: 'Dead' Pinay phones home

"IS everybody OK?"

These were Marilyn Manuel's first words to her family in New York last Thursday, Aug. 21, which also happened to be her 54th birthday.

A day earlier, the Philippine-born UN staffer had been declared by the United Nations as one of at least 23 people who were killed in a truck-bomb attack outside the UN headquarters in Iraq.

Marilyn's family and relatives in the United States and the Philippines were already making funeral and memorial prayer plans when Marilyn called up her Woodhaven home in Queens County, New York, at 3 a.m. on Thursday (3 p.m. Thursday, Manila time).

She made the call on a cell phone she had borrowed from a nurse in the Army hospital in the outskirts of Baghdad where she was being treated for an eye injury.

"When I heard her voice, a chill went through me," her son Eric, 25, told New York City's The Daily News.

"My heart stopped. She said, 'Ric, it's mom.'"

Marilyn told her daughter, Vanessa Manuel Mazzullo, 29, that she didn't know how she got out of the UN building, the newspaper said.

"I can't wait to feel her, touch her, smell her and tell her I love her," Mazzullo was quoted as saying.

Mazzullo had flown in from Hawaii to grieve with her family.

Marilyn's older son, Vladimir, 33, said the family hadn't told her that she had been presumed dead because they did not want to confuse or upset her.

"I can't express how I feel," her husband, Benjamin Manuel, 56, told The Daily News. "I have a second chance with my wife again."

The couple have been married for 34 years.

Benjamin had been praying that reports of his wife's death were wrong.

"I can't express how I feel. I thought I was a widower," The Daily News quoted Benjamin as saying, as he clutched a statuette

ALIVE/ A22

MARILYN MANUEL: She didn't know she'd been reported dead.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. The rest of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Brace for terror attacks—GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned Filipinos to brace for possible attacks from terrorist groups following the recent bombings in Baghdad and Jakarta.

"We must be on guard after the Jakarta and Baghdad bombings. We are taking preemptive measures but the people themselves, through active vigilance, must form the first perimeter of public safety," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

The President did not say if there were any specific reports of the Philippines being targeted but in the past extremists linked to the al-Qaida network and the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) regional terror group have carried out bombings in the country.

"We must keep on fighting until terrorism retreats permanently," the President said, calling for a quick resolution to the bombing of the UN headquarters in Iraq on Tuesday that killed 23 people, including a Filipino.

The London-based World Markets Research Center earlier said that the Philippines is among five countries most likely to be targeted by terrorists in the next 12 months. The others are Colombia, Israel, Pakistan and the United States.

The Aug. 5 bombing of the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta is widely suspected to have been the handiwork of the Jemaah Islamiyah which wants to set up an Islamic state spanning several countries, including parts of Mindanao.

Police have boosted security measures in anticipation of retaliatory attacks following the recent arrest of suspected terror mastermind Riduan Isamuddin also known as Hambali.

Hambali, a 36-year-old Islamic scholar, is accused of being behind the Bali bombings that killed 202 people last year and has been indicted by Manila in connection with a series of bombings that killed 22 people on Dec. 30, 2000.

Hambali

Hambali was captured last week in Thailand, handed over to US authorities and flown to an undisclosed site for interrogation.

The Philippines has been one of the most vocal supporters of the US-led war against terror.

But Manila suffered a major setback when JI bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from jail last month while serving a 17-year prison sentence for explosives possession.

AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia has brushed off speculations that Al-Ghozi was now in the custody of either the military, police and the MILF, insisting that he has not been captured.

Al-Ghozi, together with suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, escaped from their detention cell in Camp Crame, Quezon City, on July 14.

Edris was allegedly killed in a shootout with his military captors in Lanao del Norte in the first week of August.

Meanwhile, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday downplayed claims that JI members are in the country to consolidate "Muslim armed fighters."

"That is the vision of the JI for the entire region. This will never succeed because of the crackdown being done by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand on JI members," Golez said, noting that JI operatives have been on the run following the capture of Hambali last week, and Abu Bakar Bashir last year.

Bobby Mahmud, a confessed JI operative, stated Tuesday night on Australian TV that JI members are in the Philippines "to unite armed Muslim fighters."

Mahmud's claims

Garcia, who heads the government panel in the coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said he would verify Mahmud's claims.

"I have not myself heard of that information. We will be acting on it and conferring with MILF counterparts," he said, citing the MILF's vow to help in the government's anti-terror campaign.

The MILF, whose camps were allegedly used to train JI members in early 2000, has long been suspected of having links to the terrorist group. It has repeatedly denied any link to JI.

Golez said that although he doubts Mahmud's identity, the latter's claims would be taken into consideration by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, which he heads.

"We will input all information," he said, adding that the intelligence community has no information if the JI was still maintaining some cells in the country.

"We have broken some of their cells before. There were reports that they trained in camps in Mindanao, but these have been overrun," Golez added.

Soldiers' pension needs ₱89B

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE AGENCY tasked to handle the pension of soldiers is demanding P89 billion from the government to give out the pensions.

An official of the Armed Forces Retirement Separation and Benefits Services (RSBS) told the Feliciano Commission Thursday that the agency had lost most the investments it had made through the years.

Lorna Lanuza, RSBS corporate planning head, said that aside from the P89 billion one-time infusion, the RSBS requires an annual P1.7 billion from the government so that the RSBS would be able to pay the pensions.

The government continues to shoulder military pensions that amount to P9 billion to P11 billion annually.

Created in 1976, the RSBS was supposed to eventually shoulder the pensions by investing the compulsory contributions of active military men equivalent to 5 percent of their salaries.

Seed money.

Aside from the regular contributions, the RSBS was also given a seed money of P200 million four years ago.

It also does not pay income tax.

Commission chair Florentino Feliciano, obviously irked by the dismal financial status of the RSBS, asked Lanuza why they did not attempt to shoulder at least part of the pensions, as mandated.

Lanuza said they were not under any obligation to shoulder the pensions.

The rebel soldiers who took part in the July 27 mutiny complained that generals treated the RSBS as their milking cow, getting huge loans from it.

From a high of P16 billion worth of assets in 1998, the RSBS suffered a series of losses.

Its assets now stand at P12 billion.

Its investments are heavily in real estate, which make up 83 percent of its total investments.

Lanuza said they are nowhere near their goal of shouldering the pensions since they were not earning enough.

Tax-free

Lanuza told the commission that based on a recent actuarial study, the RSBS needed an infusion of P89 billion and P1.7 billion annually from the government so that it can shoulder the pension payment.

Feliciano said the RSBS should change its name since it does not pay pensions anyway.

"You're the only investment entity that's tax-free," he pointed out.

Commissioner Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes also pointed out that the RSBS never got near its goal of shouldering the pensions.

Lanuza said as of 2002, its debt stood at P1.7 billion.

But last year it paid a total of P3.5 billion in loans, of which P2.9 billion were paid with real estate properties.

In contrast, its net income in 2002 was P107 million, from P39 million from the previous year.

Among its failed investments is the construction of the AFP Theater inside Camp Aguinaldo.

Lanuza said they have not received income from the theater despite its regular shows.

Lanuza said loans they gave out to soldiers only accounted for 3 percent of the total loans they gave out.

"I hope you're not proud of that," Feliciano told Lanuza, adding that the soldiers would have been better able to pay their debts.

Illegitimate children can use pa's name under Senate bill

By Michael Lim Ubac

ILLEGITIMATE children may soon be allowed again to use their father's surname after a bill proposing the measure was unanimously passed by two Senate committees.

The bill, co-authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara and seven other senators, is now awaiting the approval of the entire Senate chamber.

Saying a "child shall have a birthright to a name," Angara asked the chamber on Wednesday to immediately adopt the proposed measure.

Children, he said, should not be made to suffer for the indiscretions of their fathers.

The two Senate committees involved in the preparations for the bill were the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and the committee on youth, women and family relations.

Family Code

Angara said that Senate Bill 2510 sought to amend Article 176 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines.

Under the amended provision, illegitimate children shall use the surname and shall be under the parental authority of their mother and shall be entitled to support in conformity with this code.

"However, illegitimate children may use the surname of their putative father if their filiation has been expressly recognized by the putative (reputed) father through the record of birth appearing in the civil register; or an admission in a public document or a private handwritten instrument and signed by the father."

In his sponsorship speech on Wednesday, Angara urged the chamber to pass the measure since "having a name secures and guarantees the child the rights and benefits attendant to his or her possession of such a name."

Children's rights

He said that the existing law had created a barrier that substantially altered the rights and obligations flowing from an illegitimate relationship.

Under Article 176 of the Family Code, illegitimate children are mandated to use their mother's surname.

Prior to the passage of the Family Code on July 6, 1987, illegitimate children were allowed to use the surname of their father.

More funds for vets' hospital

By Carlito Pablo

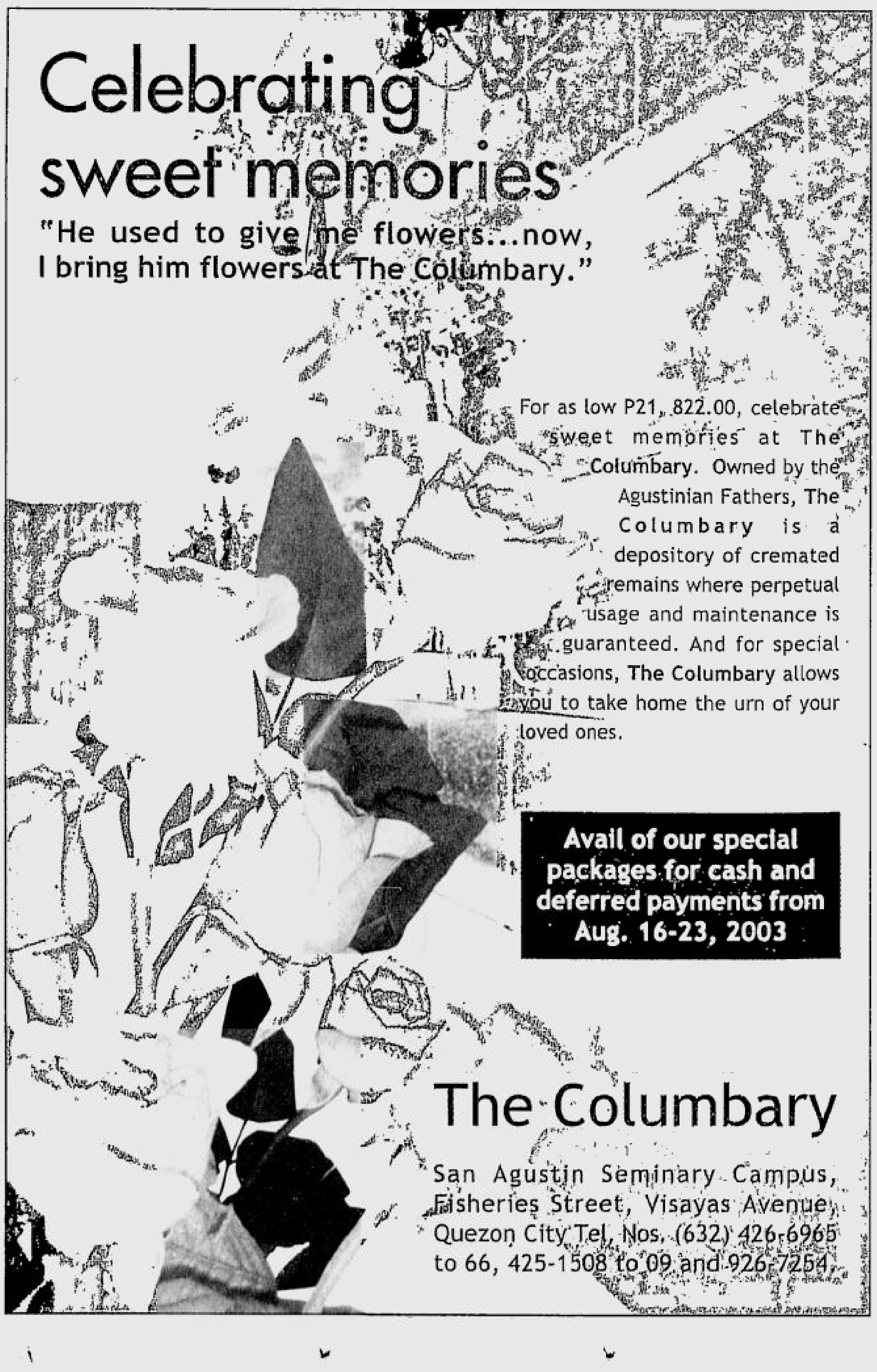
IT pays to have a former head of state as resident.

The Veterans Memorial Center, which houses the holding cell of deposed President Joseph Estrada, is getting a P553.9-million government subsidy next year.

Activist Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) pointed this out as he noted that "military favoritism" was affecting even the health and education budgets.

To the detriment of other government-run medical institutions, Ocampo said, military hospitals were getting hefty subsidies in the proposed 2004 budget of P864.8 billion.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center stood to get P787.2 million, Ocampo noted, while the proposed budgets of three out of four "specialty hospitals catering to poor Filipinos" were frozen.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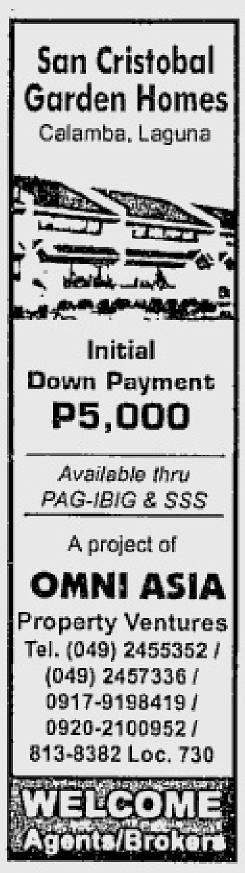
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Bacani to make appearance at El Shaddai rites tonight

By Blanche S. Rivera

CONTROVERSIAL Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani is expected to emerge from his privacy to join the celebration of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai.

El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said that Bacani is set to concelebrate the 11 p.m. Mass along with other bishops on their 19th anniversary celebration tonight at the Rizal Park in Manila.

Bacani is the spiritual adviser of El Shaddai, which boasts of some eight million members nationwide.

It would be the bishop's first public appearance since he arrived from the United States Wednesday night.

El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde has thrown his full support behind Bacani amid allegations that the bishop had sexually harassed his former secretary.

Velarde said that he had known the bishop for more than a decade and that Bacani could not have done what he has been accused of.

Fr. Gerry Tapiador, parish priest of the St. Peter Parish under the Novaliches diocese, said yesterday that Bacani has not yet contacted him. The parishioners are eagerly awaiting his return, but they have not prepared any welcome affair for Bacani.

Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Antonio Franco refused to comment on Bacani's return to the country, but his spokesperson Fr. James Reuter has said that Bacani was welcome to come and go whenever he wishes.

Reuter also denied that the bishop has been cleared by the Vatican on the sexual harassment complaint filed against him by his secretary before the Apostolic Nunciature.

Bacani was a no-show at the installation of the first bishop of the newly created diocese of Caloocan at the San Roque Cathedral yesterday where he used to be assigned.

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Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
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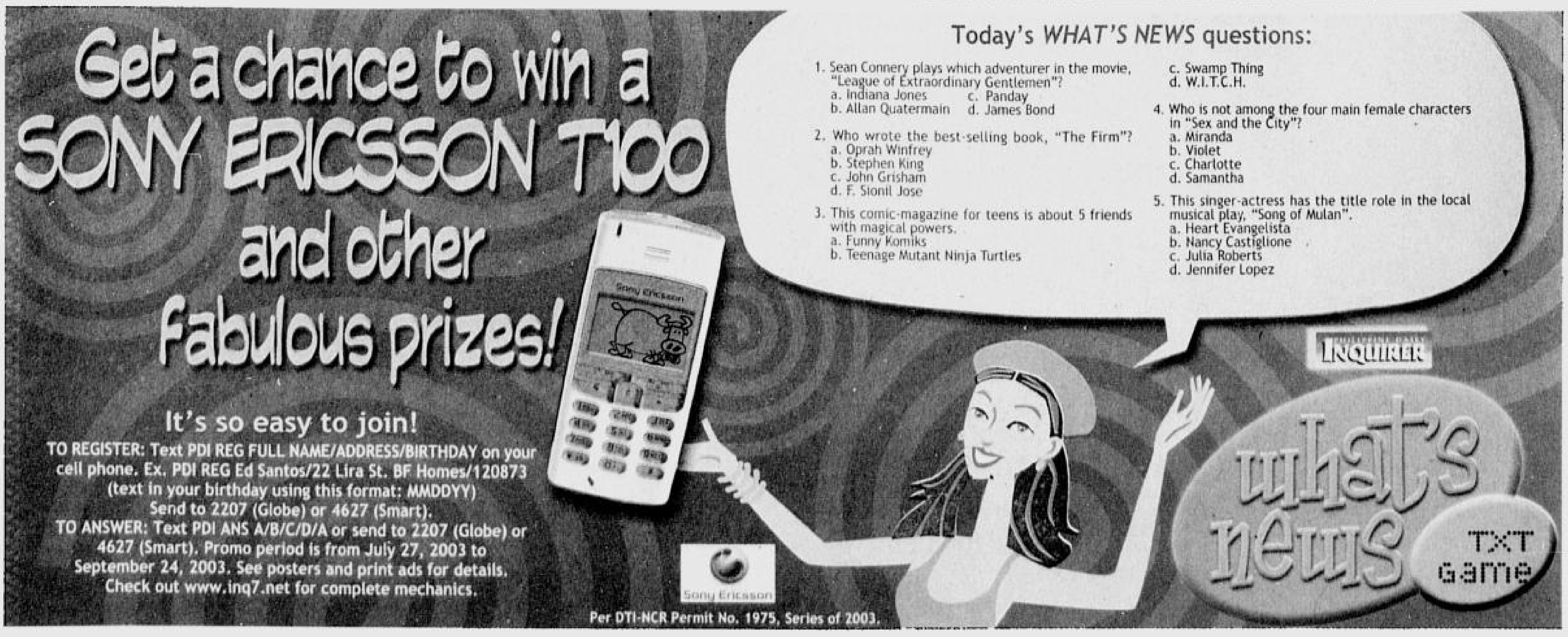

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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:
1. Sean Connery plays which adventurer in the movie, "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"?
a. Indiana Jones c. Panday
b. Allan Quatermain d. James Bond
2. Who wrote the best-selling book, "The Firm"?
a. Oprah Winfrey
b. Stephen King
c. John Grisham
d. F. Sionil Jose
3. This comic-magazine for teens is about 5 friends with magical powers.
a. Funny Komiks
b. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
c. Swamp Thing
d. W.I.T.C.H.
4. Who is not among the four main female characters in "Sex and the City"?
a. Miranda
b. Violet
c. Charlotte
d. Samantha
5. This singer-actress has the title role in the local musical play, "Song of Mulan".
a. Heart Evangelista
b. Nancy Castiglione
c. Julia Roberts
d. Jennifer Lopez

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975, Series of 2003.

Lacson: Businesswoman to get nothing from US ruling

By Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said that businesswoman Blanquita Pelaez won't be getting a single centavo from him in the latest US court ruling on a handcuff deal she entered with the Philippine National Police seven years ago.

Lacson, in a phone interview, said that a court in California has set aside an earlier judgment for the senator to pay Pelaez $3 million (P155 million) in damages, stemming from the non-payment of handcuffs ordered on Dec. 27, 1996 by the PNP from Smith and Wesson Co., of which Pelaez was the exclusive supplier.

Lacson and his lawyer, Sigfrid Fortun, said that according to the court, Pelaez failed to establish the emotional distress caused by Lacson involving the handcuffs deal.

Fortun also said that the court held that the Pelaez's appeal for damages was so enormous that this would be equivalent to "confiscation without due process" of Lacson's property. The court said this was unconstitutional because the senator's side was not heard and he did not participate in the proceedings.

But Fortun said that the court retained its earlier judgment that Lacson was in default, because he did not answer the complaint filed by Pelaez on time.

US lawyers for Lacson, in an e-mail message to Fortun, said that "the court did not have any authority to overturn the June "entry" of default" and left this in place."

"But keep in mind, that the June entry of default was for zero dollars and zero cents—meaning technically, Pelaez won the "entry" of default issue—but without any monetary award," said Barbara Zuñiga, an associate of the California-based Cardoza law offices.

Fortun said that the decision of the court then was a "paper award."

"It did not grant any relief of what they (Pelaez and her lawyers) were asking," Fortun said.

"She will end up zero," Lacson also said.

Fortun said he has already informed Lacson's US lawyers to appeal the court to set aside the affirmation of the default judgment on Lacson.

He said that the senator wanted this set aside because this would be an "admission that he did her wrong, that he maligned Pelaez."

But the senator has to settle his bills first with Michael Cardoza, his lawyer in California.

In Zuñiga's e-mail letter to Fortun, she was advised by Cardoza not to take further action on Lacson's case until the senator settles the legal services provided by them.

Fortun said that he has forwarded to Lacson the legal fees he owes the US law firm and he was confident that Lacson "would make good his promise" to settle the amount.

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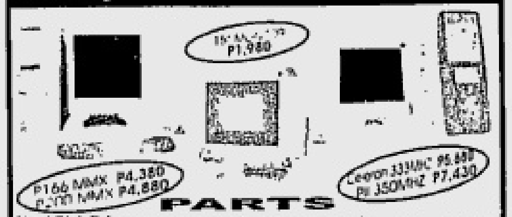

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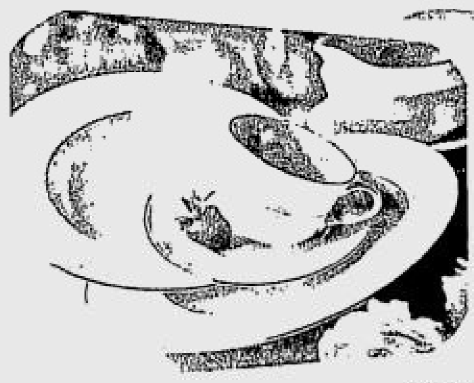

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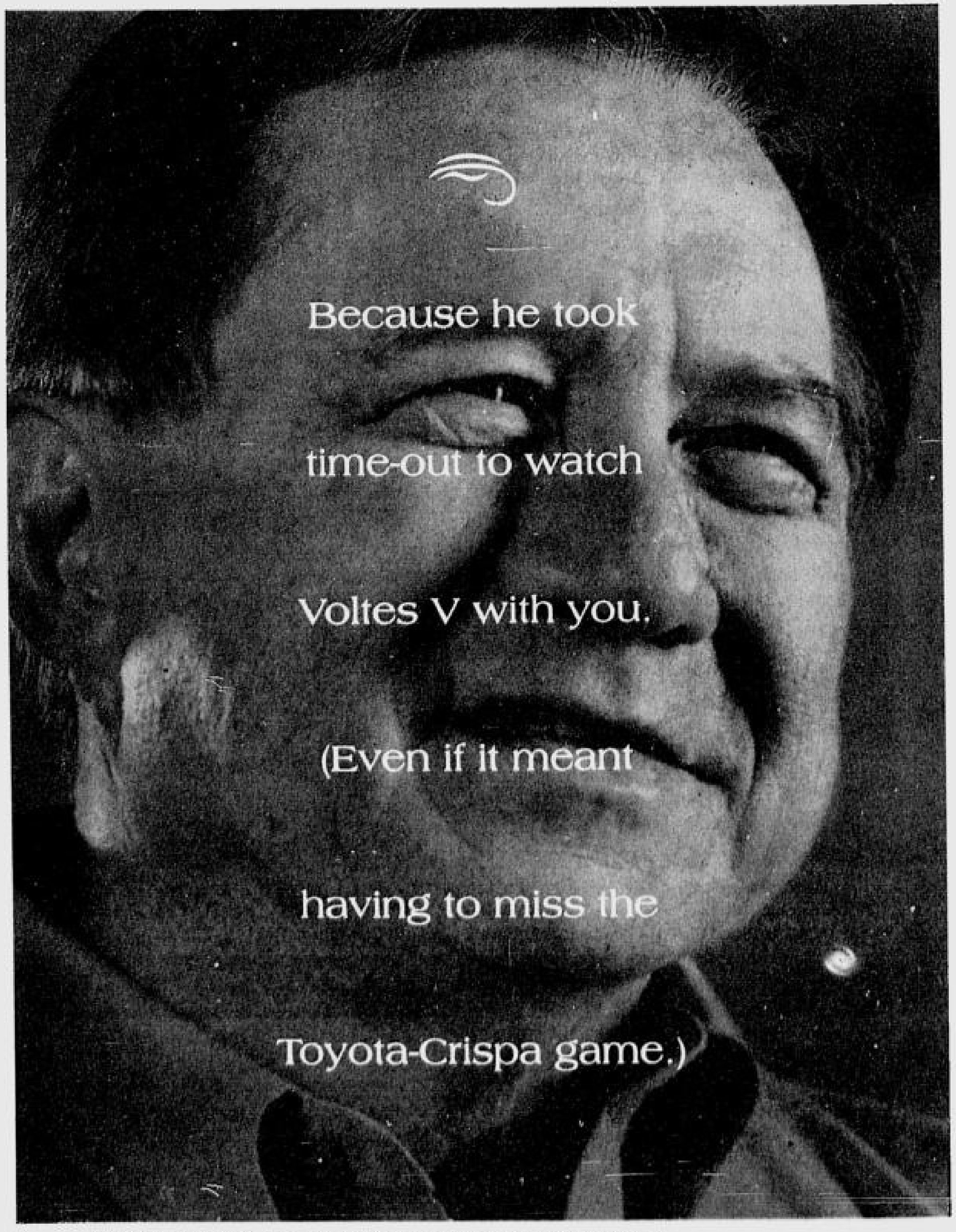

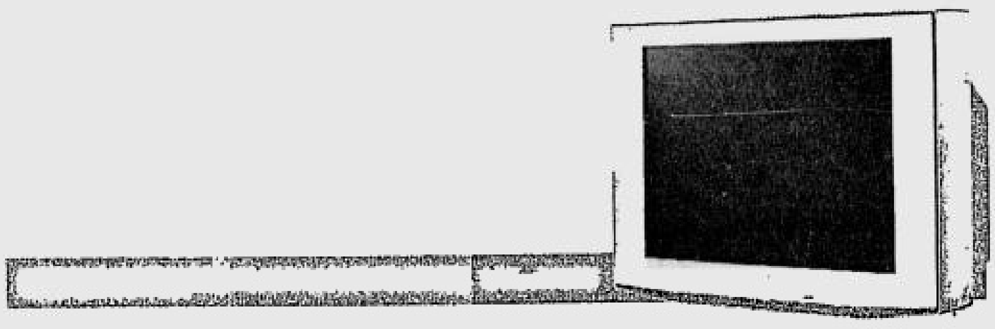

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UNBUNDLED OR HIDDEN?

Where's PPA? ERC asked to explain rates

THE CONTROVERSIAL purchased power adjustment (PPA) on electricity consumption is supposed to be gone, but how come consumers are still paying the same if not higher rates?

This question was asked of the Energy Regulatory Commission amid speculations that the PPA is hidden somewhere in the confusion of the unbundled rates of Meralco.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile wrote ERC chair Manuel Sanchez and asked him to explain and clarify how Meralco arrived at its new unbundled billing system.

The multiple items in the present unbundled rate billings of Meralco had been "conveniently and cunningly" used to hide the PPA charges, Enrile said in a statement.

Enrile noted the "widespread confusion and anger spawned by the unbundling rate billing system among consumers despite the fact that Meralco had run full-page ads to explain the rates. However, there was clearly no attempt to clear up and detail how the PPA was distributed and inputted in many of the charges contained in every billing, Enrile said.

"The truth is the PPA did not vanish overnight," Enrile said.

Enrile said the ERC should order Meralco to be transparent about the unbundling of rates and the purchased power adjustment (PPA), otherwise consumers would readily believe that the ERC is in cahoots with Meralco in fooling the people.

In his letter to the ERC, Enrile called on Sanchez to fully explain key items in the unbundled rate billing system which remains as "a big mystery" to consumers.

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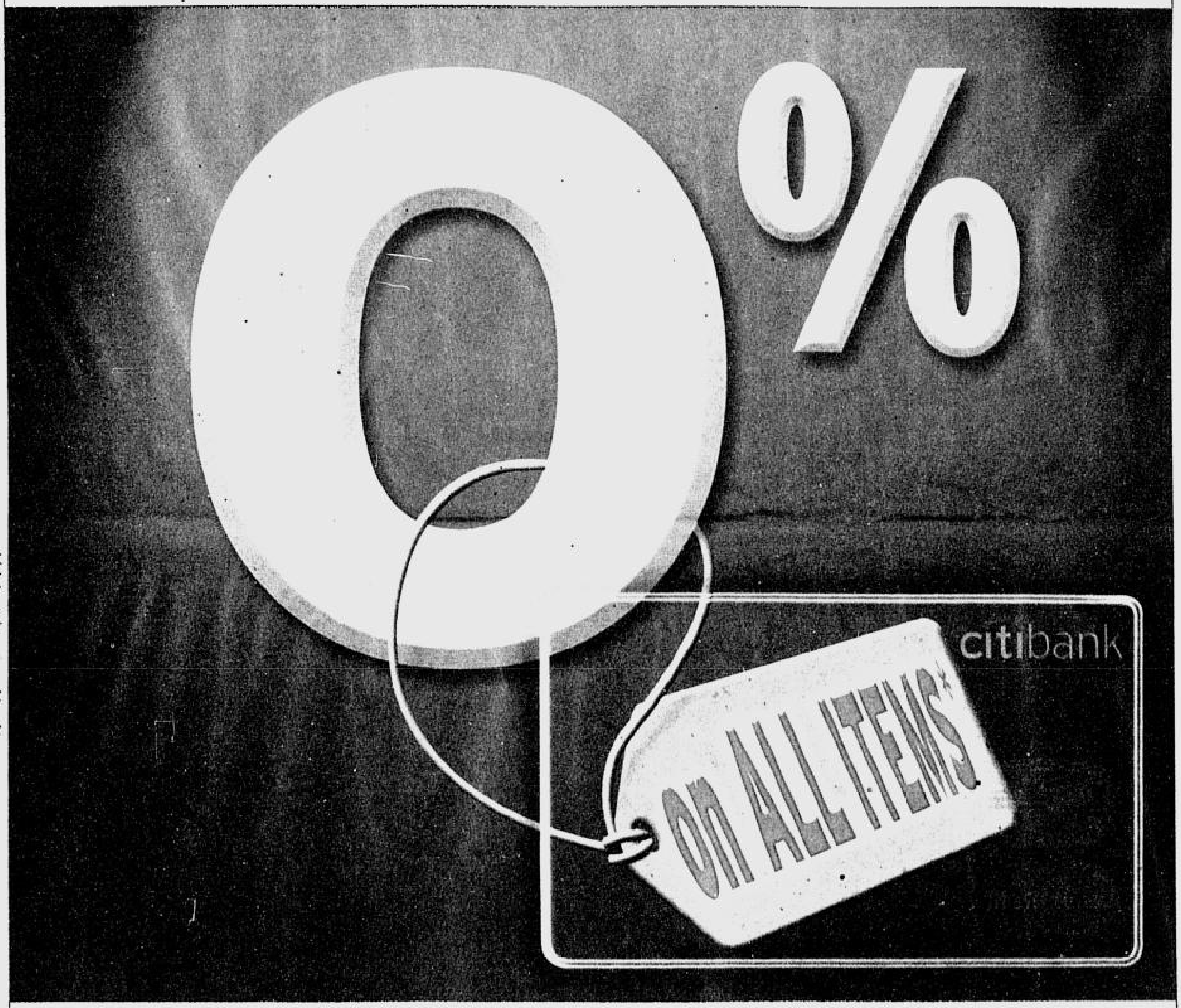

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Palace to get lion's share of ₱1.2-B 'intel' funds

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is getting the lion's share of next year's proposed P1.2 billion in "confidential and intelligence expenses," activist Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) said yesterday.

Ocampo said that the Palace will gobble up P650 million or more than half, with the balance to be distributed to other government agencies particularly the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

As is practiced, confidential and intelligence expenses are not covered by review of the Commission on Audit.

"How much of these intelligence funds are being used by this administration to conduct surveillance on journalists maintaining contacts with rebel groups and personalities?" Ocampo said.

Ocampo, a former journalist and underground leftist leader, was referring to a recent admission by PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. that certain media practitioners are under watch.

Ebdane, however, later retracted his statement in the wake of averse reaction from the media.

Ocampo said that of the P650 million intelligence fund going to Malacañang in 2004, P500 million will go to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, while P150 is earmarked for the Office of the President proper.

In its budget proposal to Congress, Malacañang said that President Macapagal will have full control over the P650 million as releases will all be made "upon the approval of the President."

The Palace is proposing a total national budget of P864.8 billion in 2004.

The Department of Interior and Local Government has the second biggest allocation of P285 million, from which the PNP will get P270 million.

The defense establishment will get P115 million to be divided as follows: P78 million for the AFP, and P33 million for the office of the defense secretary.

The Department of Justice stands to get P121 million, the bulk of which will go the office of the secretary that runs the Witness Protection Program.

The National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Immigration, two agencies under the DOJ, will get P18 million and P8 million, respectively.

Satur bares plot to ban Bayan Muna

BUTUAN CITY—Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo has revealed what he called a vicious plot hatched by the military to disqualify their party from Congress.

The plot, which Ocampo said was drafted by "hawks" in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet, was the administration's counter effort on the supposed infiltration of the country's democratic system by perceived leftists groups.

Bayan Muna, which won three seats in Congress, was being consistently tagged by the military as supporter of the New People's Army.

Ocampo vehemently denied the accusation and said efforts to link his group with the NPA, listed by both the government and the United States as a terrorist organization, was a component of the master plan.

Under the Election Law, the Commission on Elections could disqualify and subsequently ban any political party or individual espousing violence. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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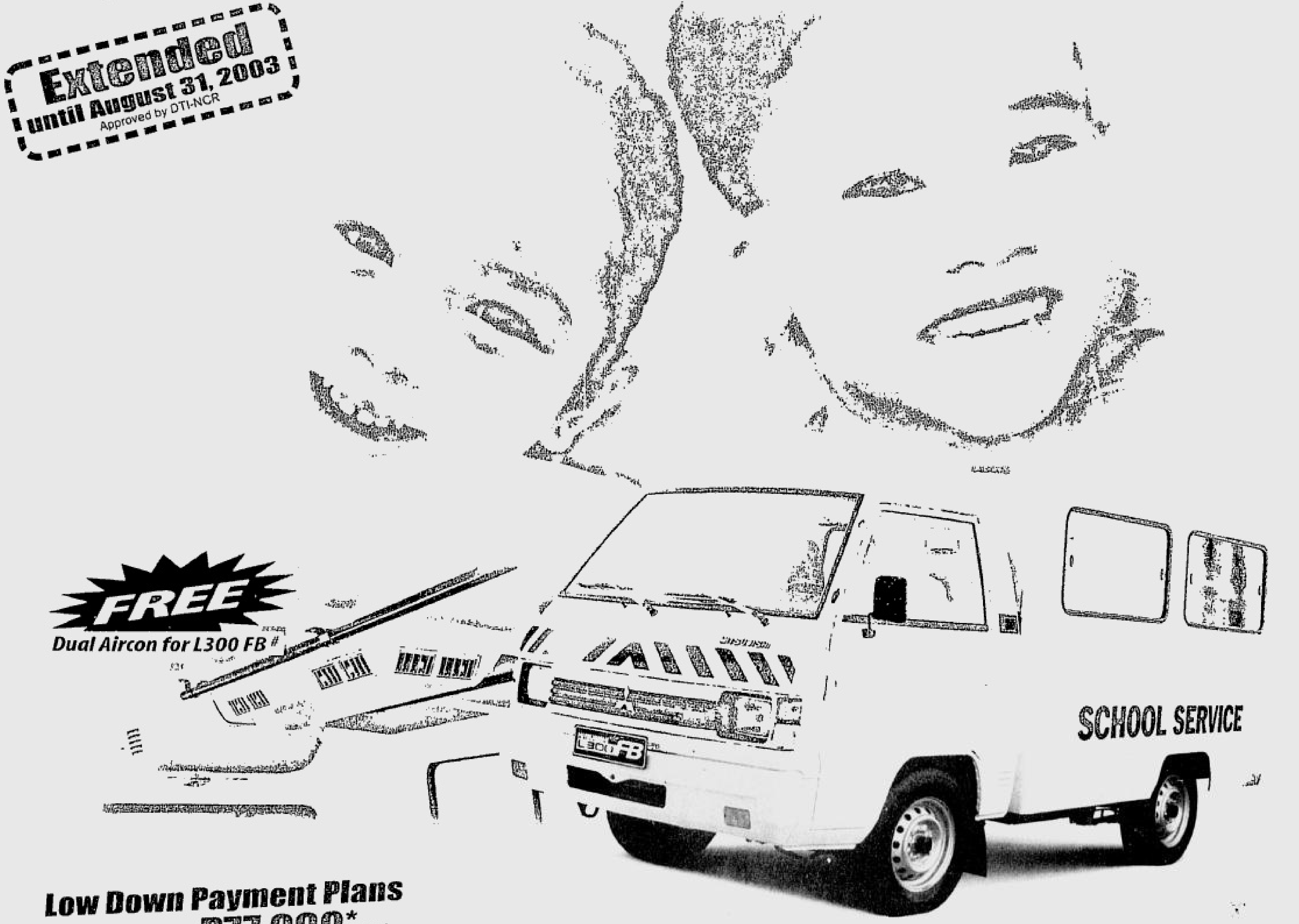

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CRACKDOWN IN KL

RP-bound pirated discs seized

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Police arrested a man and seized pornographic and pirated movie discs worth about one million ringgit (US$263,000) that were due to be shipped to Indonesia and the Philippines, news reports said Friday.

The seizures and arrest came in two separate raids Thursday carried out as part of a crackdown on Malaysia's rampant trade in illegal video and music discs and computer software.

Police stormed a house in the Petaling Jaya district of Kuala Lumpur, confiscating more than 54,000 video discs and arresting the 29-year-old occupant, The Star daily reported.

Mohamad Ghazali, a senior police officer involved in the raid, said the discs were intended for export to Indonesia and the Philippines.

In a separate raid in Cheras, south of the city, police seized more than 25,000 video discs worth more than 253,000 ringgit (US$66,000), including illegal pornographic movies, from a house, said Gingkoi Seman Pancras, a senior police officer.

No one was arrested because the house's occupant fled several weeks ago after police stepped up raids against porn peddlers nationwide, he was cited as saying.

Piracy of films and music is rampant throughout Asia, and Malaysia is a major production and distribution center.

After several failed attempts to stamp out the problem, the government launched extensive raids in May, shutting down production centers and closing once ubiquitous street stalls that sell illegally copied discs. *AP*

Rebs burn telecom station

DAVAO CITY—New People's Army (NPA) rebels staged another attack in the Southern Philippines on Thursday and burned a telecommunications relay station in Compostela Valley, the military said yesterday.

The burning of the P50-million Pacean relay station of telecom firm Philippine Global Communications (Philcom) in Monkayo town came two days after communist guerrillas killed at least five soldiers by setting off a landmine and firing on a group of Army engineers undertaking a road project in neighboring Baganga town in Davao Oriental.

Lt. Col. Maximo Caro, of the National Task Force Diwalwal based in Monkayo, told the INQUIRER that about ten NPA rebels attacked the Pacean relay station around 5 a.m.

He said the incident was related to the rebel group's extortion activity in the province.

"They (Philcom) refused to give money or revolutionary tax to the rebels," Caro said. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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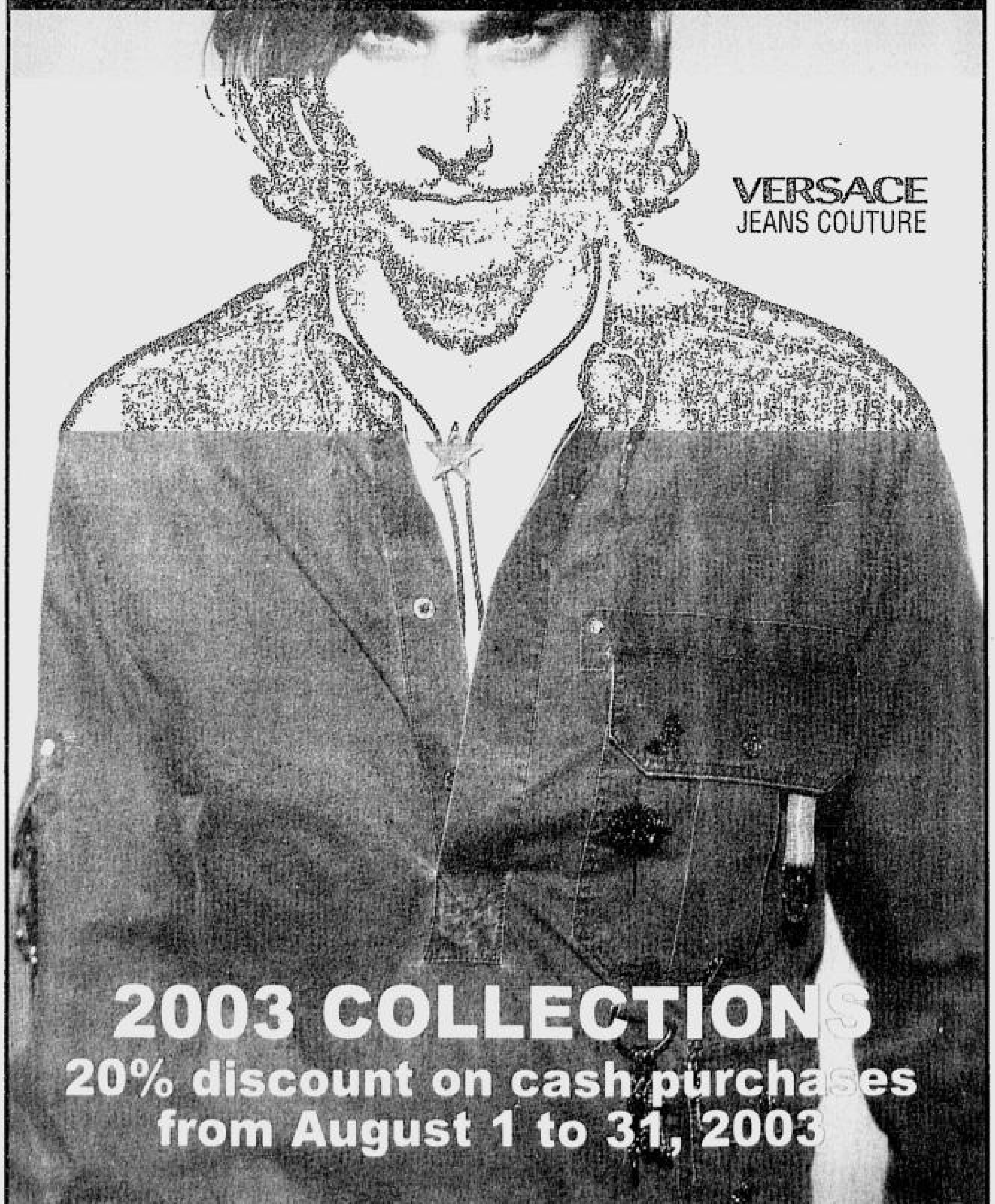

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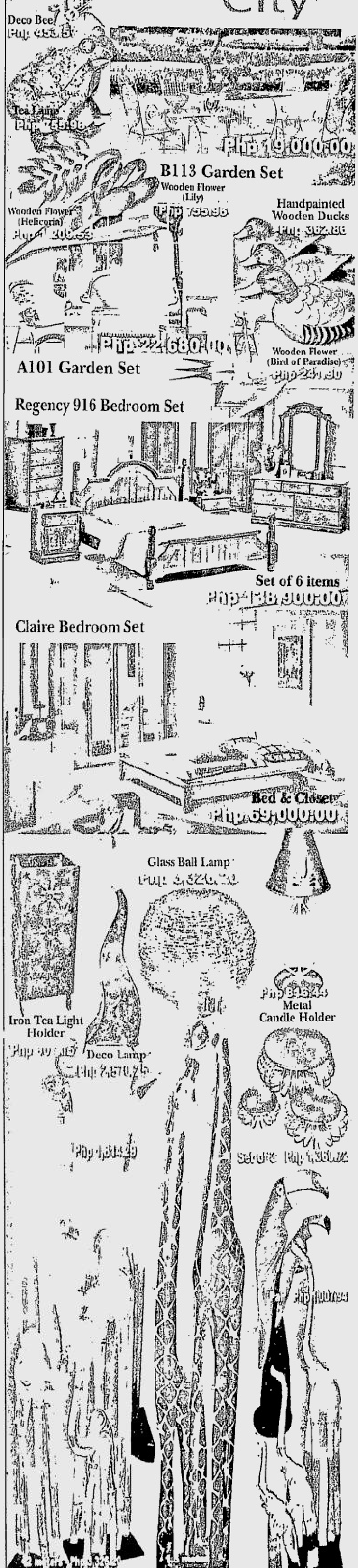

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OPINION

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Wrong target

EDITORIAL

AT FIRST glance, the suicide bombing on Aug. 19 of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad that killed at least 17 people, including two Filipino staff of the UN, makes little sense. It makes even less sense that the chief victim of the attack was Sergio Viera de Mello, a senior UN diplomatic trouble-shooter. De Mello had actively campaigned for a larger UN role in the reconstruction of Iraq and the establishment of an Iraqi governing council that would pave the way for the return of normality in Iraq and the gradual handover of sovereignty to the Iraqis, cutting short the military occupation by US-led coalition forces.

No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, and US and UN officials have labelled it a "terrorist attack." In condemning the attack, the UN Security Council described it as directly aimed at "undermining the vital role of the UN in Iraq" in helping the Iraqi people get back on their feet.

The attack raised the immediate question: Why the UN? It is easy to blame it on "remnants" of ousted President Saddam Hussein's regime. This explanation does not cut ice, in the light of the fact that the council denied diplomatic legitimacy to the US-led invasion of Iraq.

The attack followed a series of sabotage strikes on oil, electricity and water infrastructure in Iraq, as well as a car bombing of the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad. Western intelligence officials had warned of the inflow in recent weeks of foreign fighters in Iraq. US forces had been under an increasing tempo of guerrilla attacks, highlighting the security problems facing the occupation troops.

It is ironic that De Mello had sympathized with Iraqi resentment at having foreign troops on its soil and had kept telling everyone that the UN would be in Iraq long after the withdrawal of US forces. He had also insisted that the UN—not the US-led coalition, as occupying powers—should control the spending of Iraqi oil revenues. The UN was clearly the wrong target of the terrorist attack.

De Mello is credited with being instrumental in assisting the top US administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, to set up the Iraqi Governing Council. The Security Council has established a UN Assistance Mission for Iraq and has offered political support for "the broadly representative governing council, as an important step towards the formation of an internationally recognized government."

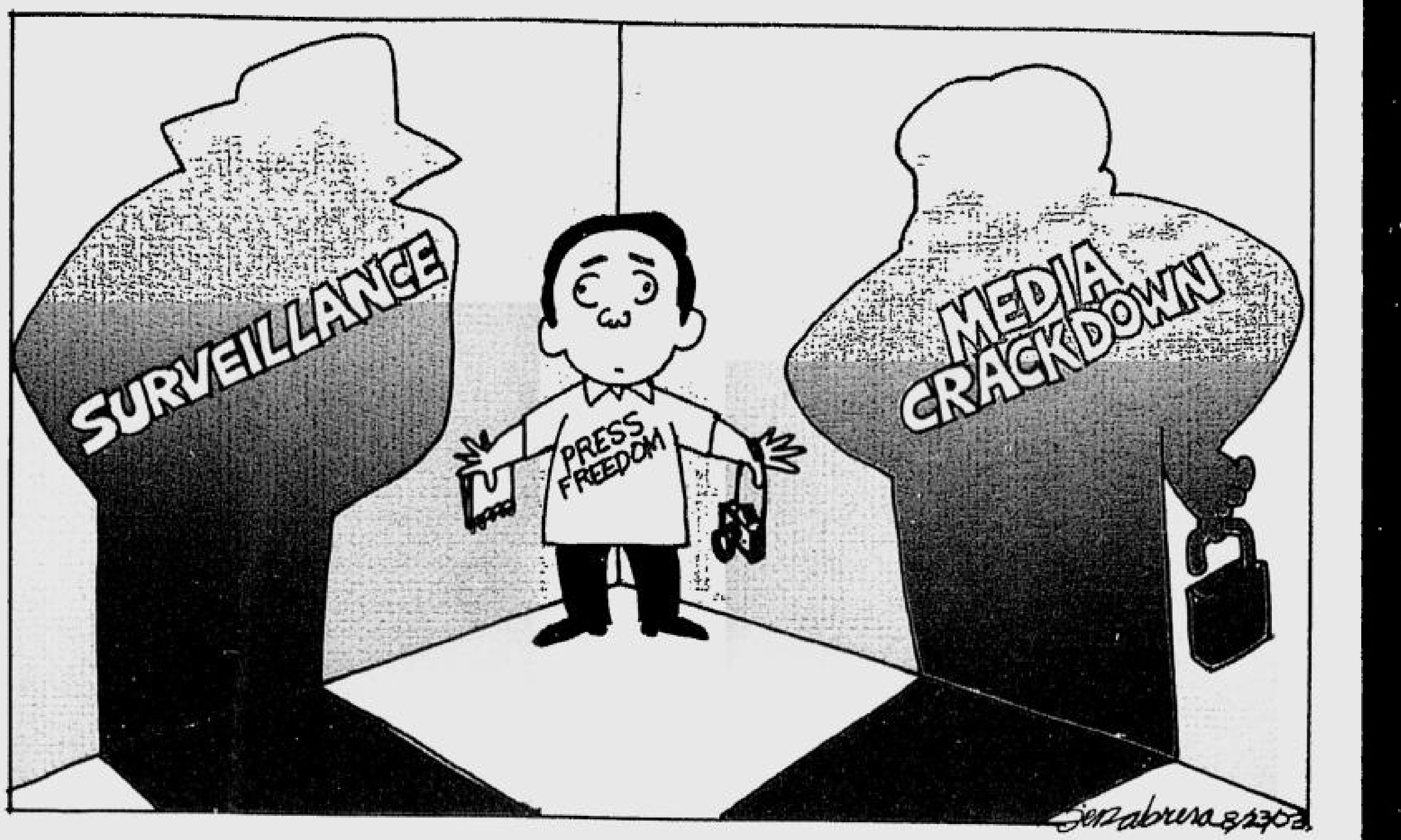
De Mello had campaigned for international support for the governing council, which had been criticized for being composed of "US puppets." His campaign had left the perception that the UN was a tool for the perpetuation of US occupation of Iraq. Some UN diplomats are reported to have expressed concern that the attack may have been the consequence of the UN's perceived complicity in the occupation.

The UN Security Council has sought to assert a wider role for the UN in the occupation of Iraq, with emphasis on the political, reconstruction and humanitarian aid in rebuilding Iraq, in the face of the reluctance of the Bush administration to giving the UN a larger security role. Rather than giving the UN a wider role, the Bush administration prefers to enlist other countries to assist the occupation forces in Iraq. The Bush administration thinks that it would be better to work with supportive countries than to involve the UN or countries (for example, France and Germany) that opposed the war, which are now eager to exercise influence in post-war Iraq.

The attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad made UN Secretary General Kofi Annan more resolute in enlarging the UN role in Iraq. "We will not be intimidated," Annan said.

The attack took place as the Philippine humanitarian mission was ready to fly to Iraq. The team, composed of soldiers, policemen and health workers, would engage in non-combat duties as a component of the multinational peacekeeping force led by Poland, a key member of the US-led "coalition of the willing."

Given the security problems in Iraq, the safety of the Philippine mission is not assured. It faces as much risk as the UN mission in Iraq.



Let the hearings be fair

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE FACT that their expected civilian support of the Oakwood escapade never materialized speaks much of the mutineers' lack of political and military savvy. They probably thought their dramatic defiance of the government would electrify the nation, but all they produced was public curiosity and amusement. Their movement did not have the explosive ingredients of Edsa I and Edsa II.

As a military maneuver, it was also a dud from the very beginning. The mutineers hoped that reinforcements would come to support them at the vulnerable hotel, but that help never came. The incident does not speak well of the young soldiers' talent for strategy and bodes ill for the time when—and if—their turn comes to defend the country from aggression. That task may be handled as Oakwood was—with confused minds and clumsy hands.

Don't they teach the Art of War in the Philippine Military Academy? That's the first thing soldiers are supposed to learn.

The absurd claim that their adventure was a spontaneous movement has deceived no one, not even the most gullible. The significant circumstance that it was made under oath was an intentional debasement of their sworn duty to uphold the high traditions of truth and honor that are supposed to be imbued in every student of the PMA.

The evidence is there to expose their lies. The thousands of banners they had ordered to proclaim the Magdalo cause, the ritual blood compact they had celebrated to manifest their loyalty to the armed conspiracy, their unobtrusive registration at the Oakwood hotel in civilian clothes they later replaced with military uniforms, the letter "H" (for Honasan?) scarred on their underarms to identify their secret membership—these and other preparations deny their claim that they had acted ad libitum.

Yet, for all the strong and damning evidence against them, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and his fellow mutineers still enjoy the constitutional presumption of innocence until the contrary is proved. In this country, accusation is not synonymous with guilt. That guilt must still be proved by the prosecution, failing which the accused must be acquitted. His conviction must be based not on the weakness of the defense but on the strength of the prosecution.

In the fact-finding investigations being conducted by the Feliciano Commission and the Senate, there does not seem to be a proper recognition of this humane presumption mandated by the Constitution itself. The soldiers appearing as witnesses before these bodies have been scolded for what is called their supposed arrogant and disrespectful attitude. They have been cautioned against attacking the President, when she is in fact the main cause of their uprising.

The investigators have probably not heard Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando's observations about student leaders that, as it happens, are also applicable to the reprimanded soldiers. In Malabanan v. Ramento, 129 SCRA 529, he said, "Student leaders are hardly the timid, diffident types. They are likely to be assertive and dogmatic. They would be ineffective if during a rally, they speak in the guarded and ineffective language of the academe."

The Oakwood soldiers, although not speaking to an activist audience, were defending the position they took in challenging the government. They were willing to stake their lives for that cause although they decided later to capitulate. This was the same cause they were espousing before the investigators, and they were doing this with fervor and indignation. They were, after all, arguing for their honor and liberty and their suddenly tattered careers.

The papers say that the witnesses have been asked by the Feliciano Commission to speak in English, probably because some of the members are not comfortable with Filipino, which is an official language under the Constitution. Chairman Feliciano has also asked the soldiers to avoid speechifying and go straight to the point without unnecessary embellishment.

The right to a hearing gives the witness the comfort and facility of expressing his thoughts in his own way, provided it is not legally objectionable per se. The style of the soldiers' testimony may offend the body's literary taste but it is a price it has to pay in its search for the truth about Oakwood.

As for the use of Filipino, the reason may be that the witnesses are not as fluent with English as with their native tongue, which, after all, is also the language of the investigators. Curiously, some of the soldiers have committed many grammatical errors when testifying in English, which may have tried the patience of the Commission members. It is really surprising that some PMA graduates cannot speak correct English, but then, even Harvard alumni use dangling modifiers.

Notably, the senators have not been critical of the bad grammar of the soldiers because they themselves are no models either when it comes to English syntax. Some of them, I suspect, speak only Tagalog but not out of patriotism. In other cases, their pronunciation is "propesterous" or maybe they are just showing off to the *bakya* audience. Moreover, the results of a Senate investigation are not expected to be released in due time, if at all, like the Lacson case.

Impression management

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

MAYBE Mike Arroyo has a "Velcro" personality: anything that is thrown at him sticks. This, according to someone whom I consider an expert in "sexing-up" (as the terminology goes) political personalities and potential candidates.

Unfortunately, having a Velcro personality is practically tantamount to a death sentence for someone involved in politics, where mudslinging is a way of life. And, it looks like Mike is being dragged down by the weight of the mud slung at him.

Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on one's perspective, it can also drag down his wife unless she is able to distance herself from him. Or, perhaps, unless the Presidential Couple can get better "spin doctors"—impression management specialists—than they have at the moment, who can somehow deflect or divert attention away from the mud. Coat the couple with Teflon, as it were, so they would have a Teflon personality—on which dirt is never perceived to stick.

A paper by Stephen Pattison of the Department of Religious Studies of Cardiff University, entitled "Demoralisation and the Rise of Shame," may be instructive. Pattison describes ours as a demoralized culture, an "individualized, self-reflexive, post modern social condition, where belonging and impression is all, and right action is problematic and possibly irrelevant. It does not matter what you do or what you are, it is how you and others perceive you to be—the judgment is about acceptability and belonging, not so much about action and its consequences."

In other words, it is not guilt that matters, it is shame. Here guilt is defined as "the sense of badness and self-rejection associated with objective wrongdoing measured against extrinsic moral and ethical norms," while shame is "the sense of badness that accompanies social exclusion and internal and external rejection."

Applying this to the political arena, the main aim of politicians becomes clear: either to avoid falling into the shame and pollution that will send them to oblivion, or conversely, to cover their political enemies with shame and pollution and send them instead into oblivion. There is method to the mud-slinging madness, after all. Politics is dirty business, and politicians end up engaging in pollution control.

It should be noted that politicians' ethics, values, or moral behavior come in hardly at all. What becomes most important to them is the ability to resist the attribution of shame and pollution—being skilled in impression management or "spin," having a Teflon personality. After all, the people we admire, says Pattison, are those who can resist stigma and pollution, whatever their offenses against law and morality.

The illustration of Pattison is Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. According to him, "the American people knew that Clinton had lied and committed other offenses quite objectively. However, such was Clinton's impression management, and the self-reflexivity of the American people's common sense manifested in opinion polls, that Clinton's personal popularity actually increased due to this incident."

Tony Blair of Britain is another example, where "his personal popularity often increases as that of his policies diminishes"—another person who can resist the move into stigma and pollution.

We don't have to look very far. Fidel Ramos, during his watch, was often likened to former US President Ronald Reagan. Both were considered to have Teflon presidencies—dirt just would not stick to them. Joseph Estrada was proud to acknowledge his "guilt" in maintaining a virtual harem, he was caught on video while in a gambling casino (prohibited to government employees), and it mattered not one whit as far as the presidential election was concerned.

Using the Pattison framework, it is easy to understand the Lacson "exposé" of Mike Arroyo as a calculated, cold-blooded move that would achieve multiple purposes: inundate the President in sleaze—Mike Arroyo is really secondary here, because where the First Gentleman is, can the President be far behind?—that would remove any chances of her running again; deflect attention from himself, or at least paint as many of his enemies so black that he would look good in comparison; and/or lay the foundation for him to label the charges/decisions against him as political vendettas.

To Lacson, it is immaterial to point out that as co-author of the Anti-Money-Laundering Act (Amla), he should be the first to know that Mike Arroyo's alleged deposits under an assumed name cannot be investigated because accepting election contributions, unlike money from kidnapping, terrorism, or gambling, is not a "predicate" crime in Amla. What is important is the perception that the Arroyo couple are engaged in money-laundering.

Accuse him of abuse of his position? That is no longer a cause for shame; everybody else does it. And who cares if the "Incredible Hulk" term actually describes a good, heroic, character? Most of the public won't know that.

What is tragic is that the implication of Pattison's framework—the fixation upon dirt avoidance (or throwing it) and impression management—is precisely what is evacuating politics of any useful social role and meaning. How to make politicians return to thinking of the social good and cease from engaging in mudslinging is the challenge, which we in the body politic have not as yet met.

Buying soldiers' support is cruel

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Thursday's 20th anniversary of Ninoy Aquino's brutal murder evoked so much pathos and nostalgic memories for all of us who marched up and down Ayala Avenue for months on end in those glory days of the anti-Marcos protest movement. How time flies. It was hard to think 20 years had gone by. Those yellow rallies after Ninoy's assassination were held in searing heat or strong typhoons, with all the bodies pressed against one another by the tens of thousands, and even a million at the Luneta during the boycott rally launched by Cory Aquino.

As we recreated the march down Ayala Avenue last Thursday, we all wondered how our bodies could take such hardships then. I must confess that once or twice during those mammoth rallies, I had wondered what I would do if a bomb went off. But we managed to conquer our fears, thanks to that great profile in courage, Ninoy Aquino.

The Aug. 21 marchers loudly protested any prospect of a military junta, but there was also a lot of comic fun at the reunion the other day of the Chino Roces Foundation, which was in the forefront of the protest movement 20 years ago. Someone quipped that if Fernando Poe Jr. were to launch his candidacy for president, the foundation put up by followers of the venerable Chino Roces could very well become the Susan Roces Foundation. Ah, Pinoy humor. That is what makes us unsinkable!

* * *

Readers' hearts doubtless went out to Star columnist Jarius Bondoc, who lamented in his column that if anything would happen to him, the blame should be put on Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Bondoc wrote of the harassment his family has suffered ever since he began to detail the rise of narco-politics here, the latest being the inclusion of his wife Marissa on the list of people Lacson denounced in the Senate in connection with the alleged "money-laundering activities" of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Lacson offered no proof of his accusation that Jarius and Marissa were involved with Arroyo's financial schemes, but by including Marissa, who had visited their lawyer in the LTA Building a couple of times, the ex-policeman showed that he is an expert at tailing people. This sleuthing "Big Brother"-style even on a journalist's family has a chilling effect on the media.

* * *

Lacson's exposé hogged the headlines, but after the dust settled, it began to crumble, as the INQUIRER editorial put it. No wonder Sen. Nene Pimentel, a smart lawyer and former law dean, refused to touch the stuff when it was offered to him 10 months ago.

Lacson's exposé was based on the allegation that the Arroyo couple pocketed the P271 million remainder of a P321-million campaign fund and that Mike Arroyo deposited them in the secret accounts of other people. How Lacson arrived at that figure he never said, though he cited some names of people contributing funds in the millions. The problem is, as Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez pointed out, there is no provision in the Omnibus Election Code requiring candidates to return unused campaign donations; in addition, these cannot fall under "fruits of crime" such as those derived from kidnap-for-ransom, *jueteng* and drug-trafficking.

* * *

What seem to be in need of reform are our election laws. I'd like to see stricter monitoring and supervision of campaign funds, to make sure these don't come from drug or *jueteng* lords, and that a ceiling is set to campaign spending as unbridled spending eventually leads to graft and corruption. But it's clear that campaign funds do not fall under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and Lacson did not seem to know the difference. Moreover, his fellow politicians would not be sympathetic to argument, for what politician didn't pocket unused campaign funds? For instance, a candidate known for her fiery temper was said to have made a huge business out of "endorsing" candidates.

* * *

Assuming Lacson's story is true, perhaps some banking laws may have been violated if those funds were deposited using aliases, but that's another issue. By the way, the Bank of the Philippine Islands has officially denied that it holds a "Jose Pidal" account. It also pointed out that its Perea Street branch had been closed four years ago. Moreover, according to INQUIRER columnist Vic Agustin, the Union Bank account of "Jose Pidal" was closed in August 2001, contrary to Lacson's assertion that it contained many millions as of July 2003. In law it's an accepted principle that when a case fails the credibility test in one question, the rest of the story becomes suspect.

In the meantime, Lacson seems to be in the hot seat himself, as his arch-enemy in the US, businesswoman Blanquita Pelaez, says she has the documents to prove that he deposited in his wife's account nearly half a million dollars in three tranches in late 2000, at the height of the Estrada impeachment trial. Many will recall that at that time, indeed, Lacson suddenly flew to the US and the speculation was that he was trying to sell himself to the Kano as the alternative to Estrada. Pelaez's claim opens a new angle.

* * *

The National Bureau of Investigation has disclosed that Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV invested P1 million in the recent controversial pyramiding scam, while a number of other mutineers invested hundreds of thousands of pesos. This revelation contradicts their claim that they staged the rebellion because of issues such as poor pay of soldiers.

Another story says that Sen. Gregorio Honasan has been trying to entice soldiers to join another coup which he's plotting by offering them P50,000 each. This is mean and cruel, as it plays on the real need of the lowly soldiers for money. This is not unlike the exploitation by politicians of the poverty of the poor by paying P500 for their votes. What kind of revolution is it that's propelled by paying participants?

Re-living history

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"IS THAT Reli German?!" my friend exclaimed as she caught sight of the Atom delegation heading toward the corner of Ayala and Buendia Avenues where the "yellow march" was to start. "My God, he looks so much older, and so do all the other Atom guys!"

"Hello," I reminded her. "We've all grown older. Twenty years have passed, remember?"

Alex Magno, with whom I acted as annotator during yesterday's wreath-laying ceremony at the Ninoy statue along Ayala, reminded everyone that the babies born in 1983 are in fact old enough to vote now. An entire generation has grown up in the years between the assassination and today, and there are no longer any handy excuses for failing to bring Ninoy's dreams to fruition.

So even as we, veterans of the "parliament of the streets" that sprung up in the wake of the assassination, stakeholders of the "People Power" phenomena, waxed nostalgic with the re-creation of the protest marches that used to periodically tie up Makati traffic all those years ago, there was also an undercurrent of unease in the celebration. It was heady seeing the length of Ayala bathed once more in a rain of yellow confetti. But it was also sobering, knowing that so much remains to be done, that Ninoy might be looking down on all the hoopla and asking himself if his sacrifice had been worth it.

"This feels so good," said a fellow marcher as we made our way to the Ayala Tower One after the rites. "After Oakwood and Ping Lacson's exposé, it feels so nice to join something positive and uplifting."

But it was precisely the aforementioned events—and the continuing divisiveness in our government and society—that took some of the sheen off the glow of Thursday's commemoration.

* * *

MAKATI Business Club's Bill Luz said that, just out of curiosity, he asked his staff how old they were when Ninoy was killed. One staffer was only a year old. On average, his subordinates were about six or seven years old in 1983, too young to have grasped the significance of the events swirling about them.

For this reason, Luz said he urged all his staffers to drop their work and join the crowd at the Ayala ceremonies that afternoon, "just so you could see for yourself a sight that we had gotten used to in those years."

But it wasn't quite the same, was it, Bill? As another friend told me, "It just isn't the same without the undercurrent of fear that we all felt even as we marched and chanted."

And yet, Thursday's events have shown me the value of re-creating historical events, if only to keep history and memory alive in the hearts and minds of people too young to have been witnesses or actors.

In the United States, groups of Civil War enthusiasts regularly re-stage major battles between Confederate and Union troops, oftentimes in the very fields and woods where the fighting took place. In Colonial Williamsburg, the restored village that played such an historic role in the American Revolution, tourists sit on the delegates' seats at the town hall and read excerpts from the famous debates that led to the passage of the Declaration of Independence. Though not an American, I felt goose bumps, hearing those words said aloud inside the very hall where America's founders uttered them.

Maybe that's what our *bagets* need to go through, now and again. Maybe they should take part in re-creations, however lame, of historical events so they can at least imagine what it felt like, what it meant.

* * *

LATER that night, I asked Winnie Monsod if she had been on Ayala. "Sweetie," she said, "even if I had been alone, I would have marched down Ayala Avenue, if only to feel again what it was like to be there in our nation's finest hour, and if only to acknowledge Ninoy's heroism."

The photos on yesterday's front page spoke eloquently of the afternoon's spirit. Cory and President Macapagal-Arroyo, two women in yellow in a sea of yellow-clad marchers, grayer and heavier than 20 years ago, perhaps, but spirit still strong and fervor still burning. President Ramos arrived at the Ninoy monument ahead of the marchers, clad in the blue collared T-shirt he wore when he jumped for joy on Edsa. Promptly, the ladies from Ayala had him don a yellow T-shirt with Ninoy's undying words—"The Filipino is worth dying for"—splashed across his chest. The three Presidents in yellow walking away from the monument, subconsciously mimicking the step taken by Ninoy's likeness in bronze, sums up recent Philippine history: two women installed through People Power, an Edsa veteran and two missing men driven from office by forces unleashed by the death of Ninoy.

* * *

ALL the recipients of the Catholic Authors Award in the past 13 years are in turn honoring the author of the award, Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, in a special tribute dubbed "Authors with Sin" tomorrow, a week before his 75th birthday.

The awardees have called the special honor, the "Lumen Christi Award," in "recognition of Cardinal Sin's written (and spoken) word and what it has done for the Church in the Philippines and the Filipino people."

For the first time also, the Catholic Authors Award will have only one honoree, former President Corazon C. Aquino, who is being recognized also for her own written (and spoken) word and how it has positively affected—and continues to affect—the tide of Philippine history.

Tomorrow's ceremonies will also be highlighted by the launching of the updated version of the book "Scenes of Sin," a pictorial chronicle of the cardinal's 30 years of service as Archbishop of Manila, by photographer Noli I. Yamsuan.

The launching will be preceded by a Mass at 4 p.m. to be officiated by Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro.

Chinese leaders weather political storm

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Kang Lim

BEIJING—On the surface, China's new leadership has weathered a political storm in Hong Kong and emerged looking kinder, more confident and outward-looking than its predecessors.

But excessive expectations of reform may be premature. With their endorsement of Hong Kong's embattled leader and pledges of economic support, President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have helped defuse public outcry and quietly kept a lid on calls on greater democratic freedoms.

"Make no mistake. They will still do what they have to do to cling on to power," said Cao Wen, an expert on the Communist Party that has monopolized power in China since 1949.

A protest march by 500,000 people in Hong Kong in July against a security bill China's leaders want passed into law in the city was the largest demonstration since the 1989 Tiananmen democracy movement. It was the second big test for Hu and Wen who in April sacked the health minister and mayor of Beijing after a torrent of criticism over the cover-up of the SARS outbreak.

Both men took over the reins of the state only in March and are still in the process of consolidating power. Risking reform of the Communist Party or embracing Western-style democracy is not the best way to go about doing that.

In Hong Kong, for example, there has been little concrete movement towards one of the main demands of the protesters: direct election of Hong Kong's chief executive by 2007.

Even though Hu and Wen are populists and keen to make themselves and the Communist Party more acceptable to the broad masses, the pair have to deal with a still influential former president, Jiang Zemin, looking over their shoulders.

"Certainly, Jiang's influence is there," a Western diplomat said. "I'm not sure that it's a Jiang that looms large over them day in, day out. It's a Jiang that needs to be consulted and ties maintained with him given that he is who he is."

In one example of Hu and Wen having to consult Jiang, they asked for instructions before making a move against Shanghai tycoon Zhou Zhengyi because Zhou had close ties to some of Jiang's proteges, said a well-placed party source who asked not to be identified.

In the end, Jiang did not give any instructions, the source said. Zhou was eventually taken into custody, accused of fraud and obtaining questionable bank loans.

With Jiang in the background, Hu and Wen do not have a free hand even if they wanted to introduce radical political change. They face a mammoth party with 65 million members ingrained in their old ways.

"China's political system is slow to change. Hu and Wen would face resistance if they tried to change things dramatically," the diplomat said.

Hu and Wen backed unpopular Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa after the July protest, ignoring a chorus of calls for his resignation, apparently to avoid accusations of meddling in the city's internal affairs.

Tung has since watered down the subversion bill and delayed putting it before the legislature, all seemingly with Beijing's approval.

But while endorsing Tung's leadership in Beijing, Hu made it clear Hong Kong had no choice but to pass the bill and are unlikely to give their blessing to universal suffrage before 2007.

"The Communist Party does not like uncertainty. If there are direct elections one day, it wants to be able to control the outcome," said Cao, the Communist Party expert.

With enough headaches of their own, the last thing the new leaders need is deep public discontent in Hong Kong to spread to China and spawn social unrest on the mainland. They prefer the solid ground of an economic solution.

Eager to show the world Hong Kong can thrive under China's rule, they unveiled relief measures aimed at buoying its economy—supporting a massive bridge project linking Hong Kong to the mainland, pushing a free trade zone and easing travel restrictions on Chinese tourists.

"The crisis is basically over," said Zhang Zhirong, an expert on Hong Kong at Peking University.

The leaders are also unlikely to flirt with reforms in a testing international environment. They have another more serious crisis brewing: neighboring North Korea is threatening to go nuclear in a face-off with the United States.

Beijing has managed to bring North Korea to the negotiating table for six-way talks in the Chinese capital next week to try to defuse the crisis. The stakes would ratchet up considerably for China if the talks collapse.

And the prospect of Hong Kong boiling over again has prompted quiet discussions in Beijing about the eventual replacement of the unpopular leader down the road, analysts said.

Said Cao: "The search for Tung's successor has begun."

Reuters

A never-ending war

YOUNG BLOOD

Vanessa Rose D. Bacwaden

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT WAS early in the evening of June 1, 2003 when a friend called to ask if I had heard the news. I didn't know what she meant. Then she told me that my batch mate and friend, 1Lt. Benedicto Lippad III, had been killed in an encounter with separatist rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberarion Front in Munai, Lanao del Norte.

I couldn't believe it. "You're joking," I told her angrily. "And it's a very sick joke."

Ben can't be gone, I told myself. It's unthinkable. He has so many plans, great plans, and he has a long life ahead of him. Why, he still isn't even a general yet, and he deserves to be Armed Forces chief of staff someday. He still has to sire lots of children and have lots of grandchildren! It can't be Ben. It is unimaginable.

Less than an hour later, Ben's "mistah" called me to confirm the news. I could not say anything in reply.

Ben was first in the Army Group and third place overall in the Sanghaya Class of 2000 at the Philippine Military Academy. He graduated cum laude and was the recipient of the Philippine Army and Secretary of National Defense Sabers. That was supposed to set the pattern of high achievement that would lead him to his dreams. He had barely begun a promising military career, and in a split of a second, everything was gone. At the very young age of 25, his life was taken away while he was doing what he loved best and was trained for: fighting for his country and serving the nation.

Of course, the risk of death was a given in Ben's chosen career. Maybe it truly was his fate to leave this world in that manner and at his age. But still those he left behind were overwhelmed by pain and grief over his sudden demise.

The feeling of bitterness cannot be helped—bitterness over this war, over this hatred that has warped men's hearts. We clamor for peace and yet we kill our own kind. Ironic. We hate war and yet we can't even stop the hatred raging within us. Even as I write this a few weeks after Ben's death, there are clashes between the military and MILF in Mindanao. The war never really stops. It's so hateful, this war, and so sad, for it only leaves anguish and sorrow behind.

Right now a text message just came in from a friend, asking me to pray for another mistah of Ben's, Lt. Peter James Angeles, who was killed in yet another encounter with rebels in Davao. Peter was only 25, just like Ben.

It's very sad and alarming to hear that our soldiers are dying so young. What's even sadder is that this war is making widows of young women and orphans of very young children, babies among them. And what about the indescribable grief of every dead soldier's mother? The anguish of parents who have to bury their children is etched on their faces.

Ben was a risk taker. Once he told me: "Life is a mystery. So be willing to take risks and be prepared to live with its consequences. Sometimes things happen that you do not expect, but life goes on."

I asked him another time why he chose to be in the Army. "That's where the challenge is," he replied. "I want to be in the middle of the action." And he added with a smile, "Besides, most of the officers who become chief of staff come from the Army."

Ben thrived in an environment filled with challenges. When he was set on getting something, he would pursue it relentlessly no matter the odds and regardless of the risks. He never let go until he was satisfied that he had done everything he could.

He explained to me that when one accepts a challenge there is at least an even chance that the odds are in your favor. He was ready to take the risk if he thought he could derive some self-fulfillment in seeking a certain goal. He was not reckless, but he was ready to take a calculated risk.

When friends heard about Ben's death, they were just as stunned and unbelieving as I was. Even when his body finally arrived in our hometown, flown in by a military helicopter, we were still hoping that there had been a mistake and it was not Ben who lay inside the coffin. We could not help but feel hate at the people who were responsible for his death. And yet, we also pitied them for they did not know how deep our grief would be.

As far as I know, these Muslim rebels are fighting for an independent Islamic state. But this never-ending war doesn't make sense to me anymore. The situation has gone from bad to worse, and the root of it all is too complex for me to understand. I am beginning to wonder if it is indeed out of conviction the rebels continue to fight. Maybe someone out there can explain this to me.

The wake for Ben and his burial seemed so unreal. As one of our friends put it, "At our age we are supposed to be attending weddings and christenings of our friends' babies, not burials like this!" It was the first time our closely knit circle of friends saw one of our own pass away.

We were just beginning the process of reaching our dreams and running our own families. The possibility of death never occurred to us—anyway not in our circle and not so suddenly and early.

Ben was not perfect. He was human just like us. All of his friends had some good times with him and great memories of him—from his childish pranks in elementary school and his amazing mastery of math when we were in high school to the "jammings," the picnics and the love interests he had. We knew him as a kid, a cadet at the Philippine Military Academy and the officer and gentleman that he became. His ambition was to reach the highest position in the Armed Forces, and he used to tell me about the value of guarding one's reputation and as well as chalking up a good record of service.

It has been weeks since Ben's burial last June 12. And it seemed only befitting that a hometown hero be laid to rest on Independence Day. Now, he is free from all of this world's worries and cares and I know that he is in Heaven with our Creator who allowed us to know Ben in this life, even if it was only for a while.

My friends and I are already resigned to the fact that Ben has gone before us. We have accepted the reality that we will never see Ben again—not in this life anyway. He is gone, but part of him remains with us and he will always be alive in our hearts and in our memories.

Man makes war. When will we ever have peace? Will we only experience it after we die? We hope to see the day when there is no more war both in our country and in the rest of the world.

Vanessa Rose D. Bacwaden, 25, was Ben's classmate and friend from grade school to high school.

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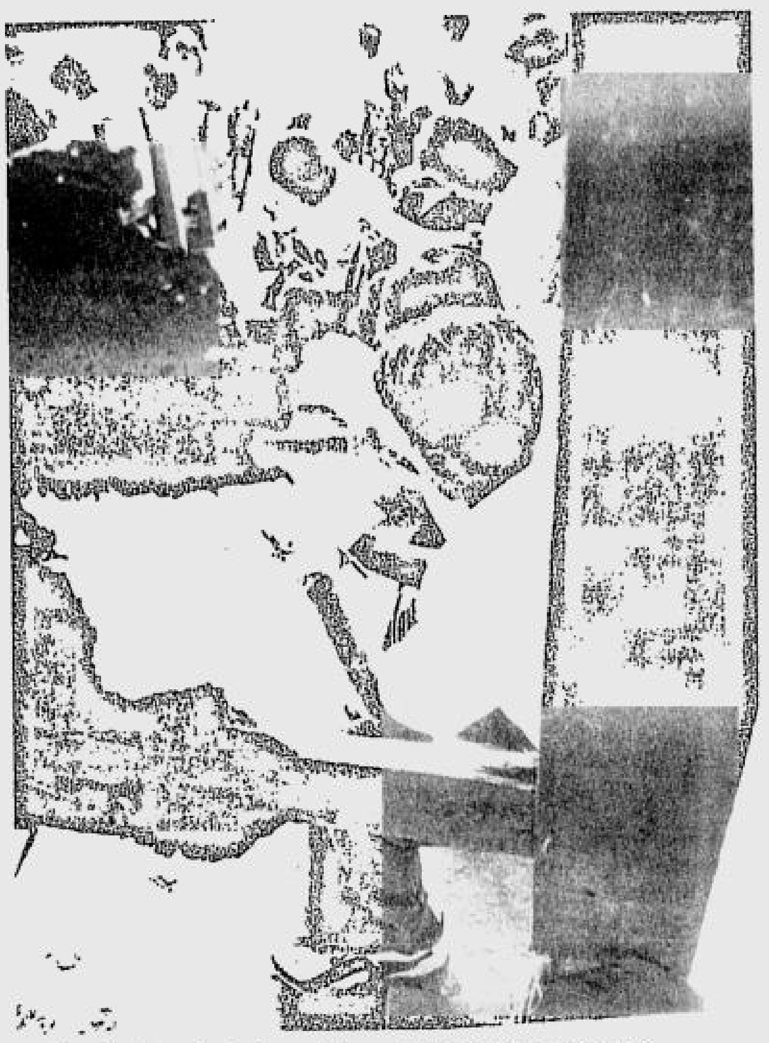
A crime against our children



PLEASE allow me to react to the July 25 commentary "A darkness of our own making" written by Antonio Calipjo Go.

Has anyone really considered the plight of this year's 800,000 new enrollees into the public school system? With no classrooms, desks and chairs, textbooks and teachers, how can public schools teach? What is to be learned from such arid and barren environment? One particular item in Go's article really made my blood boil—the Department of Education policy allowing students who fail three units of their academic requirements to be promoted to the next higher year level without need of repeating them. This is a travesty of the entire educational system because it is in the natural order of things that a ladder is ascended one rung at a time. If we fall, we must start all over again, from the bottom.

When the Constitution directed the DepEd to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education, it did not intend to merely place our children physically in a public school. Once there, these children must be given relevant and quality education. Accepting children into public schools which do not have the facilities, resources or the intention to teach is—and here I borrow from Go's article—both criminal and immoral.

When can we hope to see an early resolution to this grave national problem of ours?

—IGNACIO VALLADOLID BONOS,
144 Interior Baesa,
Quezon City 1106

Oakwood coup leader afflicted by hubris

MY initial impression of Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV's testimony to the Feliciano Commission is that he thinks he's so brilliant and that the public is so stupid.

He wants us to believe that:

1. The July 27 attempted coup was a "spontaneous" action by disgruntled young soldiers who happened to converge at Oakwood at the same time... when various reports indicate that the misadventure was a deliberate, well-funded attempt at power grab.

2. The Magdalo armband he and his cohorts were sporting were "just silkscreened" by one of the group's members... when it was very obvious that the material was professionally done by a Baguio supplier as a special report confirmed.

2. The mutinous soldiers did not have a leader and was just being led by their collective idealism and desire to change the AFP—no, make that the whole country for the better... when it was clear that he was just parroting a line from "Kuya" Gringo's National Recovery Program who, as it turned out, could have been the main beneficiary had the "spontaneous" action brought down the government.

4. Because the President kept "yakking and yakking," instead of immediately firing Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Generals Hermogenes Ebdane and Victor Corpus as he had demanded, she was already part of the problem and therefore deserved to be kicked out... when the fact that he was given an audience by his commander in chief for almost two hours without passing through the usual protocol demonstrated the President's good faith.

I'm afraid Trillanes' attitude and demeanor show that he's afflicted by the same incurable virus that marks his hero-in-hiding, Sen. Gringo Honasan: hubris.

—ED DAMES,
cemg@pacific.net.ph

LETTERS

QC traffic rerouting

DUE to the numerous complaints about the massive traffic gridlock at E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), the Quezon City government, in coordination with the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) and the Metro Manila Development Authority Central Traffic Enforcement Group (MMDA-CTEG), has come up with an experimental traffic rerouting scheme effective Aug. 12, 2003.

The program calls for the rerouting of traffic, reversing one-way streets, expansion of another lane in front of the SLMC and the strict implementation of "PUJs No Entry Zones" and other traffic laws. The reversal of one-way traffic are in the four major streets in the New Manila area, namely: Gilmore Avenue, Hemady Avenue, Victoria Avenue and Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue.

To ensure proper public information on the rerouting scheme, we initiated information dissemination drives last Aug. 8, 9 and 10, through our Community Relations Office, which distributed leaflets to all the residences in Barangays Mariana and Damayang Lagi.

We have also put up streamers along the five major thoroughfares which will be affected by the traffic scheme, namely: E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Gilmore Avenue, Hemady Avenue, Victoria Avenue and Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue.

The public may give any comments on the said project through Tel. Nos. 922-9548 or 925-6045 local 237.

—TADEO M. PALMA
Office of the Secretary
to the Mayor,
Quezon City

Roads are not for sidewalk cafés

ALLOW me to react to Neal H. Cruz's column, "Construct more parking buildings." (PDI, 8/7/03)

I have been residing along Tomas B. Morato Avenue since 1939 though I am not a restaurant owner. I accept the fact that Morato Avenue is now highly commercialized. The inner properties along the side streets, however, are not and they remain one of the most thickly populated residential areas.

I agree with Cruz that the paving of the sidewalk along Morato Avenue with bricks "will be beautiful." But I totally disagree with him that Morato Avenue should have "sidewalk cafés, just like Eastwoocl City in Pasig, Greenbelt in Makati and, soon, Avenida Rizal in Manila. No doubt diners will flock to Morato."

I further disagree with Cruz that "the sensible thing would be to close Morato to vehicular traffic from Timog to Roces Avenue and make it a pedestrian promenade just like downtown Rizal Avenue, etc."

Morato Avenue is unique in the sense that people who patronize its restaurants are families who park their cars, eat and go.

Sidewalk cafés have been tried here before and they flopped. More so in these dangerous times, no one would be crazy enough to sit in an outdoor café for fear of being blown up by some terrorists' grenade.

This avenue is not and will never be a place for bar-hopping or for the people to walk around in relative safety, as your newspaper reported some two months ago, noting that its sidestreets are one of the most notorious areas in town for car thefts, hold-ups and other crimes. And you better believe it. They happen every single day.

If I have a vacant property, I'd invest in a multilevel parking building and make more money than any of the restaurants.

Cruz is right in saying parking buildings are essential. But there is not a single vacant properly left along the avenue.

Tomas Morato Avenue is a national road, a vital artery for motorists, including ambulances, going to St. Luke's Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Cardinal Santos Hospital and other hospitals in town.

During the time of then Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon, I saw many ambulances on emergency unable to cross the avenue because Simon had closed it down for his "Diskuhan sa Morato" with the restaurant owners forced to serve their customers in outdoor cafés.

The sidewalks, according to law, are beyond the commerce of man. The MMDA punished all the poor sidewalk vendors. Does it now mean that the rich can occupy the sidewalks for commerce but not the poor vendors?

This double standard in our sick society is what's ailing our country today.

What is good for the goose is bad for the gander?

What is wrong is wrong. No amount of twisting can make it right, just because some people in power need impact projects before 2004.

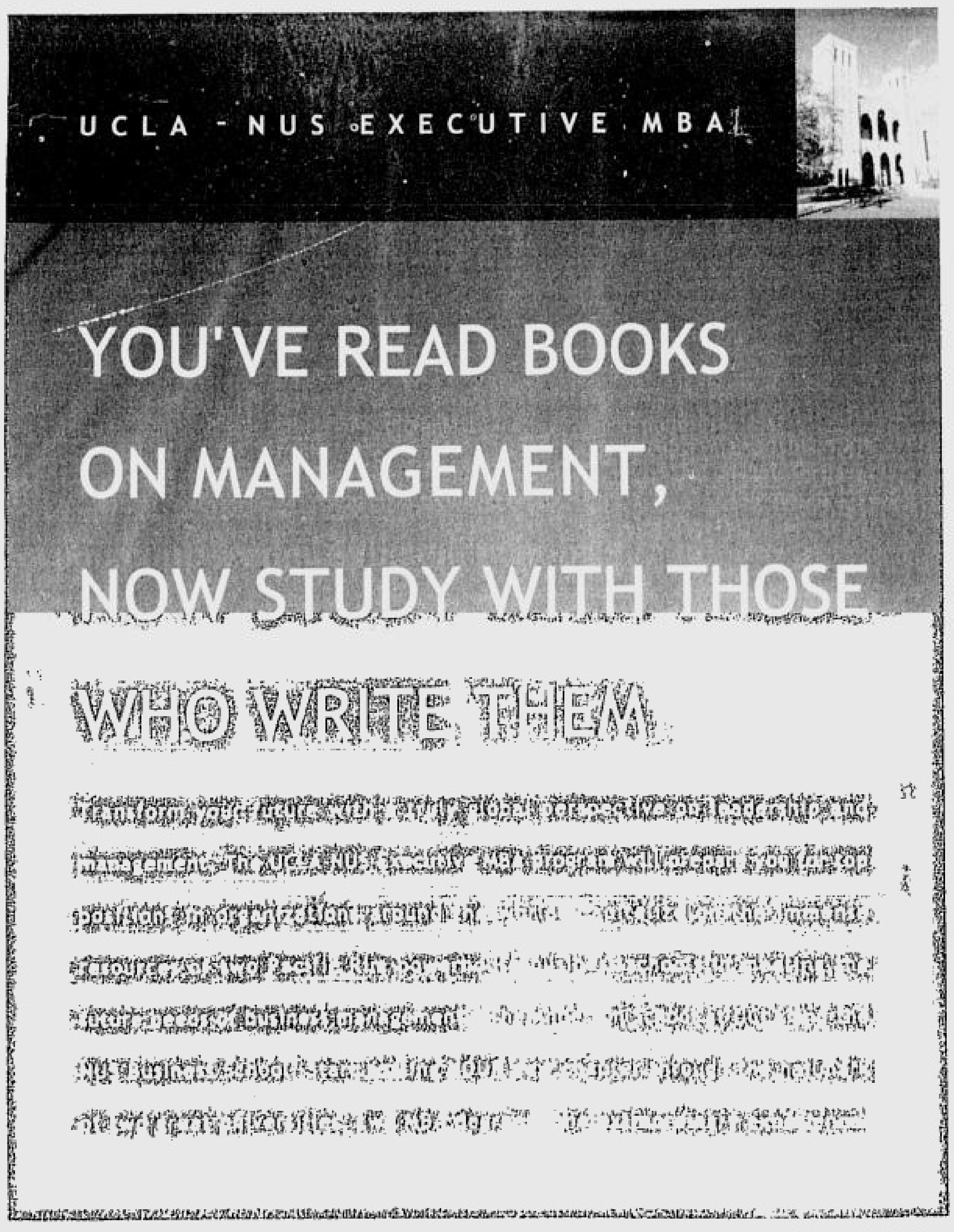
—MANUEL L. MORATO,
Tomas B. Morato Avenue,
Quezon City

Good project put in wrong hands

I WOULD like to react on the article about the Baclaran road-clearing job of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando being handed to the Parañaque government. I certainly agree with what Fernando said that in the act of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez backing up the vendors, they would only get more and more stubborn.

Being a Parañaque inhabitant myself for the last 11 years of my life, I would have to say that entrusting the road-clearing job to the present government here would be like handing a beggar hard-earned food and watching him leave the food to rot. Not only will the job not be done. Power vested upon the government here will be used for all the wrong reasons. If I do not know any better, the scheme behind backing the vendors up is only to make the "savior" more popular and be able to gather more votes for the next election.

—GRETCHEN S. ANG,
16 Ephesus St.,
Multinational Village,
Parañaque City



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[illegible]

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2 Sept	Ho Chi Minh
4 Sept	Manila
9 Sept	Bangkok
11 Sept	New Delhi
12 Sept	Mumbai
18 Oct	Singapore
21 Oct	Los Angeles
1 Nov	Singapore
17 Nov	Los Angeles
25 Nov	Hong Kong
26 Nov	Shanghai
28 Nov	Beijing
6 Dec	Singapore
8 Dec	Los Angeles

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Malicious lies about Ilusorios

IT is an utter disgrace to the professionalism of the INQUIRER that it continues to allow Victor Agustin to repeatedly propagate malicious lies about our family. The frequency of Agustin's published untruths indicates the limitation of his range of topics and reinforces the notion that the INQUIRER is simply a tool for the personal vendetta of its staff. Why should the INQUIRER routinely accept blatantly false stories from a writer like Agustin without disclosing his personal connections to his subject and his personal agenda?

Agustin is supported by one side of the Ilusorio family, namely Marietta "Honey" Ilusorio Feltner, whom he has a live-in arrangement with, and Ramon Ilusorio of the Multinational Investment Bancorporation. As such, and readers should be told—Agustin has a vested interest in fabricating stories and creating lies about the late Potenciano Ilusorio as well as his daughters, Lin Ilusorio-Bildner and Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, who respected their father's wishes. It is a well-known fact that the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Court of Appeals have determined that the late Mr. Ilusorio was sane and mentally alert, and by virtue of his own testimony, Mr. Ilusorio was declared by the high court not illegally restrained by his daughters; however, Agustin uses any opportunity he can to further this myth. These indisputable facts should be the basis for responsible journalism rather than the scurrilous lies that flow out of Agustin's pen.

Agustin's expertise in fabricating stories is matched only by his prowess for diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease, particularly in people he has never met. It is precisely the reckless and tabloid-style of "reporting" that accounts for the mounting libel complaints against Agustin and undermines the quality of professionalism in the INQUIRER. Perhaps the INQUIRER should change the label of Agustin's column from "Cocktales" to "Fairy Tales," or how about "Cooked Tales"?

—LIN ILUSORIO-BILDNER,
7/F Ramon Magsaysay Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Recognize rights of indigenous peoples

THE MAGDALO-LED uprising in Oakwood Makati affirmed one thing: the military and the Philippine government are so rotten from inside out that their own men could not stomach their own rot.

Another victim of the Philippine military's blunder and brutality is the Blanco family from Mindoro Occidental. Last July 21 of this year, the Blancos, a family of four Mangyans, were killed as armed men, identified as military men, arbitrarily fired at their hut. According to the sole survivor Lenlen Batikulin, despite her shouts that there are civilians in the house, the military kept on firing. The military justified its action asserting that some elements of the NPA were hiding inside the house. The dead bodies of the Blancos soon proved the military wrong. Also this year, four other Mangyans from Mindoro Oriental have been documented as victims of abduction, torture and murder.

The situation of the Mangyans is not an isolated case. The indigenous peoples are now at the brink of virtual extermination or ethnocide due to the twin attacks of militarization and destructive projects disguised in pro-development packaging.

Being the launching areas of counter-insurgency and all-out-war operations, every indigenous peoples community is a virtual garrison as battalions after battalions of military are deployed in their community. Next to Lumad communities in Mindanao, Mangyan and Dumagat communities in the Southern Luzon region are the most heavily militarized areas in the country followed by the communities of Aggays, Kalinga and Ifugaos of Cagayan Valley. Same predicament faces the Aetas in Central Luzon.

In this context, we see the imminent deterioration, the eventual annihilation of what remains of the indigenous people's socio-political, economic and cultural systems wherein the last vestiges of the genuine Filipino identity remains.

In the bigger picture, we see the indigenous peoples as sacrificial lambs to what the Macapagal government boasts as the Strong Republic with the AFP's motto of "leading the charge."

We exhort all our brethren, indigenous peoples or not, to stand together in the struggle for survival, for identity, for land, for life, for genuine self-determining indigenous communities, in a genuinely self-determining nation.

—HENRY BORREO,
Dumagat leader and spokesperson,
Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP), 48A Mapagbigay St.,
Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City

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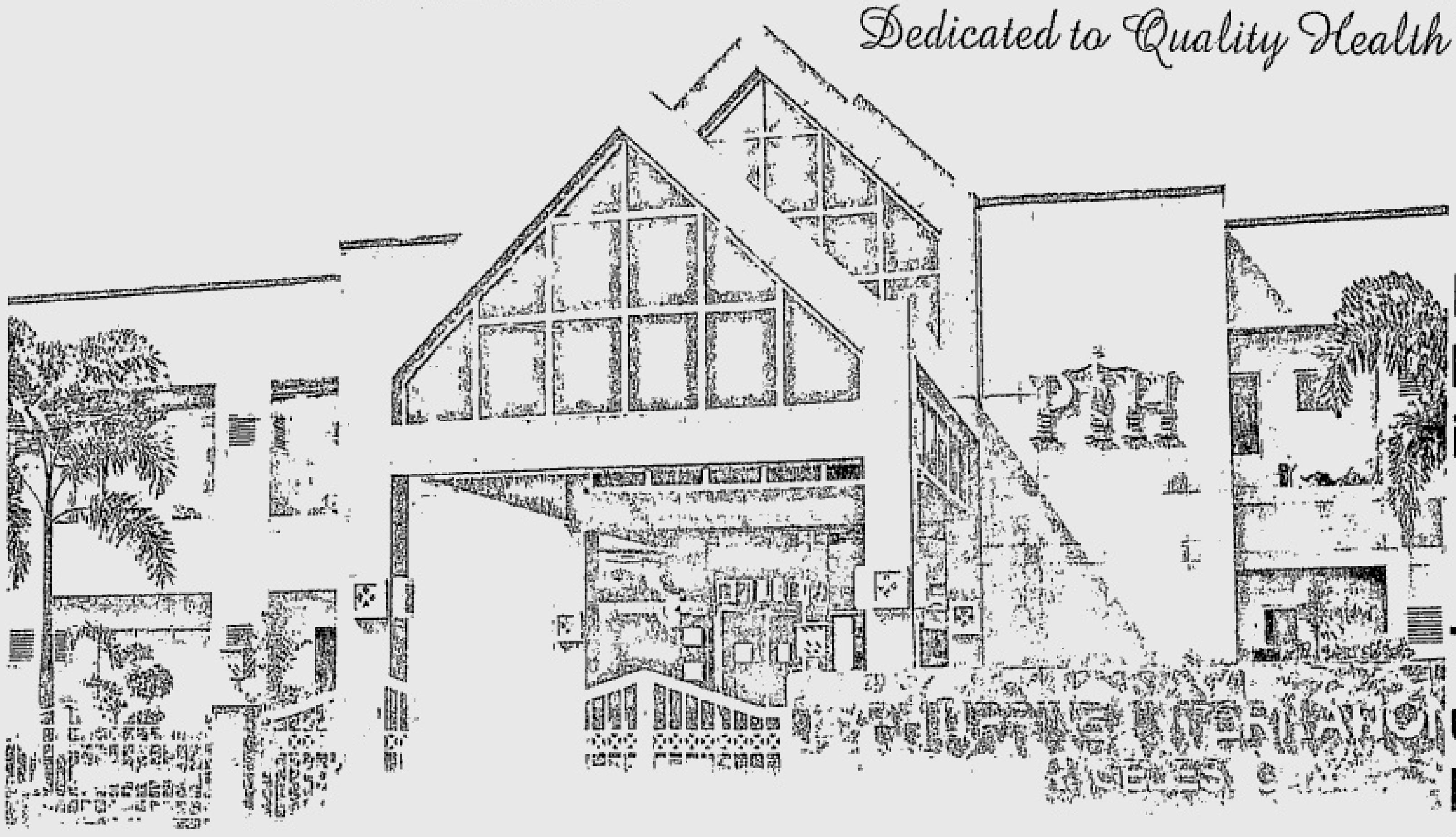

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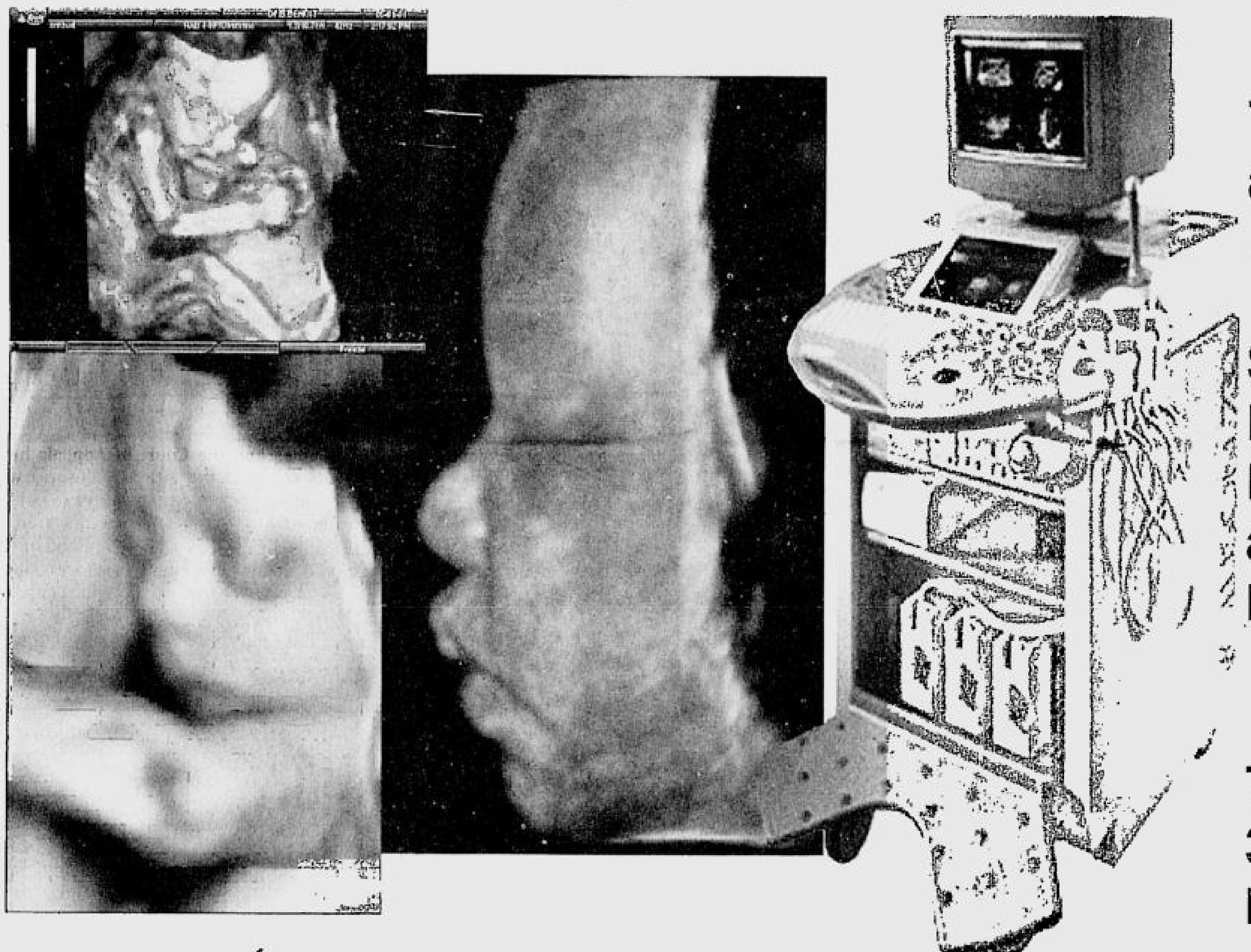

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Islamic Jihad, Hamas end ceasefire

GAZA CITY—The Palestinian militant groups Islamic Jihad and Hamas issued a joint statement Friday formally ending their seven-week-old truce because of an Israeli air strike that killed a top militant leader.

The statement blamed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for wrecking the truce that the Palestinian militants declared unilaterally on June 29 and which Israel considered dead after a massive suicide bombing in Jerusalem Tuesday.

Hamas effectively called off the truce Thursday after Ismail Abu Shanab, one of its top officials, was killed with two bodyguards in a hail of rocket fire on his car in central Gaza. But Islamic Jihad waited until Friday.

"We announce together today that Sharon assassinated the truce and delivered the final blow in killing political leader Ismail Abu Shanab," the joint Hamas-Islamic Jihad statement said.

"The Zionist enemy bears full responsibility for the ceasefire's end and the consequences of the escalation of violence that will flow from it.

"We also blame the US administration, for not only has it remained silent about the Zionists' crimes, it has also provided them with political cover."

The statement also urged the "Palestinian Authority and Cabinet to put an end to its policy of threats against the resistance forces, reject US and Zionist pressures and rejoin the Palestinian people in its resistance" to Israeli occupation.

The latter call was a reference to a clampdown on Hamas and Islamic Jihad ordered by the Palestinian leadership in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's suicide bombing but left in disarray by Thursday's killing.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians were expected to jam the streets of Gaza for Abu Shanab's funeral Friday as anger mounted over the latest Israeli air strike.

Nearly 20,000 Palestinians held impromptu rallies in various parts of Gaza Thursday crying for vengeance, and more were expected for a funeral likely to turn into an outpouring of grief and anger.

"This crime demands a painful punishment," top Hamas leader Abdul Aziz al-Rantissi, who narrowly escaped a missile attack himself on June 10, told reporters Thursday.

"The streets of Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem will be filled with blood and Sharon will be responsible for it," he said.

The body of Abu Shanab was expected to be carried out of the Shifa hospital around noon (0900 GMT) and taken in a procession to the Al-Amera mosque in the center of Gaza City.

After Friday prayers, the mourners will march about 5 kilometers to bury Abu Shanab in the Martyrs' Cemetery in the community of Eshaikh Radhwan, north of Gaza City, where he lived.

Israeli troops closed the main highway through the Gaza Strip ahead of the funeral, effectively cutting the territory in two and undoing one of the confidence-building measures adopted by Israel before the renewed spiral of violence.

AFP

Masaya man makita ang mga batang gumagaling sa sakit, walang katumbas ang ngiti ng isang musmos na minsa'y nakaranas ng munting magic show o face-painting, o nakakuha ng libreng lobo. Yan ang nais naming maihatid sa ating mga kabataan – hindi lang ginhawa sa ubo at sakit, kundi buhay na maginhawa. Kaya habang nakakatulong ang libreng konsulta at gamot, sinisikap din naming sabayan ang mga ito ng paghatid ng kaunting kasayahan para sa mga bata. Kami po sa Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic, sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa Bantay Bata 163, ay nangangarap na magbunga at lumago ang pagsisimulang ito upang matugunan ang kalusugan at kabuhayan ng mga bata sa lalo pang maraming pook. Dahil pag guminhawa na ang buhay ng ating mga kabataan, makakahinga na rin tayo ng mas maluwag.

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Pambatang Solmux goes to Bantay Bata 163

Pambatang Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic program recently expanded its reach by partnering with ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata 163. Launched last February, the program has already visited many public schools in Metro Manila, accommodating nearly 4,000 people per visit. With the partnership, the clinic extends its helping hand to several Bantay Bata communities in Metro Manila by providing free consultation and medicines. Bantay Bata 163 is a nonprofit organization, which aims to provide 24-hour assistance to distressed children and victims ofchild abuse.

For the months of June and July, the Pambatang Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic team visited various baranggays such as Payatas, Tatalon, Escopa and Commonwealth, among others. The program proved to be very successful, with nearly 3,000 people serviced per clinic. This project is very timely since the rainy season has just begun, increasing the incidence of cough and colds among children and their families.

Pambatang Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic stands out from other medical missions because it offers an hour-long magic show, fun parlor games and plenty of giveaways. Also, a cough management talk is given at the start of the show to educate mothers on how to manage their children's cough properly. All of these helped make the program a truly delightful experience for all the wards of Bantay Bata 163.

This August, Pambatang Solmux Kiddie Cough Clinic visits more schools in Metro Manila as it resumes its school program. Once again, thousands of schoolchildren and their families will be given a chance to receive free medical consultation and medicines. Of course, highlighting the event are kiddie games, the magic show, face painting and the free balloons for children. Stay tuned to Channel 7's Unang Hirit for announcements on the schools that will be visited by Pambatang Solmux.

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- Free entrance for cardholder and 3 companions
- One free entrance to Oceania pools for groups of 4 or more
- 15% discount off published Hotel room rates from Oct. to May (except during Holy Week) and 20% discount off published room rates from July 1 to Sept 30
- 10% discount on food and beverage at Island Grill, Fishing Village and Purple Ostrich

Hotsprings and Conference Resort
- 20% on tariff rate entrance
- 10% on tariff rate on room accommodations & picnic tables

Beach Resort
- 20% on tariff rate on entrance and Kamaligs
- 10% on tariff rate on room accommodations

Walter Mart Supermarket
Free umbrella for every P2,000 cash or card purchase

ROYAL STAR
2% [illegible] on selected models/brands

Honda Motorcycle free registration, free insurance, free helmet, free plate holder

citibike
- Free registration, free insurance, free helmet, free plate holder

DAYS HOTEL
Batangas, Tagaytay and Cebu
- 20% on published room rates (not valid on weekends and holidays)

20% on entrance and tables
10% on room accommodations

island Photo Center, Inc.
10% on photo finishings and enlargements

DISCOUNTS IN HONG KONG:

INSTANT TRAVEL SERVICE LTD
HK$ 50.00 (one way ticket)
HK$ 100.00 (round trip)

FRANKI EXCHANGE CO.
22% off on IDD Phone Cards
Free HK$10 Phone Card with purchase of an air ticket

7 SILAS JEWELLERY CO
- 40% off on 14K/18K Gold
- 35% off on Gemstones/ Diamonds
- 5% extra off on sale price
- Another 10% off on Birthstone set (when ID is presented during monthly promo)

10% off

5% off

World Wide P.S Company
10% off

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Hong Kong
5-10% off

25% off on regular item
additional 10% off on sale items

PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS STORE
10% off

EVELYN'S
10% off

Bigham Filipino Hair Salon
15% off

Jollibee.
Monthly promo discount

For (first time) new members
Premium SmarTone Auto Toothbrush with market price of HK$90
For rejoiners and joining from other operators
Waived Admin Fee (HK$30)
Waived Mobile Number Portability (HK$40)
Premium Wallet with market price of HK$10

HK$ 50 off on plane ticket

EYE CARE OPTICS
20-30% off on regular items

Regent Forex & Cargo
HK$ 20 off on all boxes

Merchant discounts valid until August, 2004. List of accredited merchants subject to change

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VIP ka sa remittance center!

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At ngayon, mag-enjoy sa discounts!

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DISCOUNTS IN MANILA:

Pizza Hut 10% on cash purchases (dine-in, none promo items)

10% on cash purchases (dine-in; none promo items)

Automatic CENTRE Free umbrella for P8,000 and above 5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items small appliances

Free umbrella for P8,000 and above 5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items, small appliances

10% on cash purchases, 5% use of credit card on regular priced furniture

Electroworld 10% on extended warranty purchases 10% on technical service support 10% on prepaid internet card purchases 5% on accessories

HOME Plus 5% of suggested retail price, cash or card, not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

ABENSON 2% of suggested retail price; cash or card, not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

Island Cove
- Free entrance for cardholder and 3 companions
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Walter Mart Supermarket Free umbrella for every P2,000 cash or card purchase

ROYAL STAR 2% to 5% discount on selected models/brands

Honda Motorcycle free registration, free insurance free helmet, free plate holder

- Free registration, free insurance, free helmet, free plate holder

Batangas Tagaytay and Cebu
- 20% on published room rates (not valid on weekends and holidays)

20% on entrance and tables 10% on room accommodations

island Center, Inc. 10% on photo finishings and enlargements

- DISCOUNTS IN HONG KONG:

HK$ 50.00 (one way ticket) HK$ 100.00 (round trip)

FRANKI EXCHANGE CO. 22% off on IDD Phone Cards Free HK$10 Phone Card with purchase of an air ticket

7 SEAS JEWELLERY CO
- 40% off on 14K/18K Gold
- 35% off on Gemstones/ Diamonds
- 5% extra off on sale price
- Another 10% off on Birthstone set (when ID is presented during monthly promo)

10% off

5% off

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Hong Kong 5-10% off

25% off on regular items. additional 10% off on sale items

10% off

Jollibee. Monthly promo discount

For (first time) new members Premium SmarTone Auto Toothbrush with market price of HK$50

For rejoiners and joining from other operators Waived Admin Fee (HK$30) Waived Mobile Number Portability (HK$40) Premium Wallet with market price of HK$10

HK$ 50 off on plane ticket

EYE CARE OPTICS 20-30% off on regular items

Regent Forex & Cargo HK$ 20 off on all boxes

World Wide P.S Company 10% off

10% off

10% off

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10% on cash purchases (dine-in none promo items)

Automatic CENTRE
Free umbrella for P8,000 and above
5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items, small appliances

Free umbrella for P8,000 and above
5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items, small appliances

BLIMS
10% on cash purchases, 5% use of credit card on regular priced furniture

ELECTRO WORLD
10% on extended warranty purchases
10% on technical service support
10% on prepaid internet card purchases
5% on accessories

HOME Plus
5% of suggested retail price, cash or card not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

ABENSON
2% of suggested retail price, cash or card, not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

Island Cove
- Free entrance for cardholder and 3 companions
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- 20% on published room rates (not valid on weekends and holidays)

20% on entrance and tables
[illegible]% on room accommodations

Island Center, Inc.
10% on photo finishings and enlargements

- DISCOUNTS IN HONG KONG: -

HK$ 60.00 (one way ticket)
HK$ 100.00 (round trip)

FRANKI EXCHANGE CO.
22% off on IDD Phone Cards
Free HK$10 Phone Card with purchase of an air ticket

SLAS JEWELLERY CO
- 40% off on 14K/18K Gold
- 35% off on Gemstones/ Diamonds
- 5% extra off on sale price
- Another 10% off on Birthstone set (when ID is presented during monthly promo)

10% off

5% off

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Hong Kong
5-10% off

25% off on regular items, additional 10% off on sale items

EVELYNS
10% off

Jollibee.
Monthly promo discount

For (first time) new members
Premium SmarTone Auto Toothbrush with market price of HK$90
For reporters and joining from other operators
Waived Admin Fee (HK$30)
Waived Mobile Number Portability (HK$40)
Premium Wallet with market price of HK$10

HK$ 50 off on plane ticket

EYE CARE OPTICS
20-30% off on regular items

Regent Forex Cargo
HK$ 20 off on all boxes

World Wide P.S Company
15% off

PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS STORE
10% off

BIGHANI FILIPINO HAIR SALON
15% off

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10% on cash purchases (dine-in, none promo items)

Automatic CENTRE
Free umbrella for P6,000 and above
5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items, small appliances

Free umbrella for P8,000 and above
5% on cash purchase on regular priced Home & Business items, small appliances

BLIMS
10% on cash purchases, 5% use of credit card on regular priced furniture

ELECTROWORLD
10% on extended warranty purchases
10% on technical service support
10% on prepaid internet card purchases
5% on accessories

HOME Plus
5% of suggested retail price, cash or card, not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

ABENSON
2% of suggested retail price; cash or card, not valid for sale, at advertised or promotional items

Island Cove
- Free entrance for cardholder and 3 companions
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ROYAL STAR
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Honda Motorcycle free registration, free insurance, free helmet, free plate holder

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DAYS HOTEL
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20% on entrance and tables
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island Center, Inc.
10% on photo finishings and enlargements

DISCOUNTS IN HONG KONG:

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HK$ 100.00 (round trip)

FRANKI EXCHANGE CO.
12% off on IDD Phone Card
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7 SIAS JEWELLERY CO
- 40% off on 14K/18K Gold
- 35% off on Gemstones/ Diamonds
- 5% extra off on sale price
- Another 10% off on Birthstone set (when ID is presented during monthly promo)

10% off

5% off

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Hong Kong
5-10% off

25% off on regular items, additional 10% off on sale items

EVELYN'S
10% off

Jollibee
Monthly promo discount

For (first time) new members
Premium SmarTone Auto Toothbrush with market price of HK$00
For roamers and joining from other operators
Waived Admin Fee (HK$30)
Waived Mobile Number Portability (HK$40)
Premium Wallet with market price of HK$10

HK$ 50 off on plane ticket

EYE CARE OPTICS
20-30% off on regular items

Regent Forex & Cargo
HK$ 20 off on all boxes

World Wide P.S Company
10% off

PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS STORE
10% off

FILIPINO CHAIR SALON
15% off

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15 indicted for murder of Serbian PM

BELGRADE—Fifteen people have been indicted in connection with the assassination of Serbian prime minister Zoran Djindjic in March, the special prosecutor's office said Thursday.

"Fifteen people are accused of being directly implicated in the murder of former prime minister Zoran Djindjic and of terrorism," it said in a statement carried on Beta news agency.

The names of those indicted for organizing the murder—the first people to be charged in relation to the shock incident—were withheld except for that of Milorad Lukovic, otherwise known as Legija, a former special police chief who remains at large.

A total of 44 people were indicted to stand trial for charges including murder, kidnapping and criminal association as a result of months of intense police investigations.

Of those, only 15 were charged with organizing the assassination of Djindjic, who was shot dead by a sniper as he left the main Serbian government building in Belgrade on March 12.

Police arrested hundreds of people during a state of emergency in March and April.

Ultra-nationalist politician Vojislav Seselj, who is already facing war crimes charges at the United Nations tribunal in The Hague, was also named as an indictee but the charge was not specified.

The prosecutor's statement said only that his indictment had been "disassociated," without elaborating.

Seselj, an outspoken critic of Djindjic's reformist government, had been extradited to the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague only weeks before the assassination. *AFP*

DREAMER

US civil rights leader Martin Luther King (center) waves to supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial Aug. 23, 1963 on the Mall in Washington DC during the "March on Washington." Aug. 28 marks the 40th anniversary of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which is credited with mobilizing supporters of desegregation and prompted the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. AFP

Potent new e-mail worm expanding

LONDON/SAN FRANCISCO—A new computer virus, feared to be the most potent ever, expanded its reach around the globe on Thursday, sending e-mail networks crashing and frazzling technicians already overstretched by a plague of computer bugs.

In the United States, Internet and e-mail service providers were blocking the worm in record numbers, while others were getting through to an untold number of unprotected computer users. Those people were complaining of hundreds, and even thousands, of e-mails with the worm in their inboxes.

Internet service America Online said it blocked 23.2 million copies of the worm from reaching its customers and e-mail security provider Postini said it quarantined 3.5 million copies.

MessageLabs, a British-based Internet security firm, said one in 17 e-mails sent around the world since Monday had been affected by SoBig.F.

The SoBig.F virus, which first appeared on computing systems Monday, spreads when unsuspecting computer users open file attachments in e-mails that contain such familiar headings as "Thank you," "Re: Details" or "Re: approved."

Once the file is opened, SoBig.F resends itself to scores of e-mail addresses from the infected computer and signs the e-mail using a random name and address from the infected computer's address book, which makes tracing it back to the source extremely difficult.

SoBig.F also leaves a back-door program on the computer, which experts said may be used later to turn infected PCs into spam relay machines, as previous versions of Sob did.

The worm was bogging down e-mail systems, bouncing automatic replies back to people listed as the sender but who likely were not.

MessageLabs' chief information analyst, Paul Wood, said it was feared that SoBig.F could increase global e-mail traffic by as much as 60 percent, slowing the Internet to a crawl. *Reuters*

Islamist group claims UN Baghdad blast

DUBAI—A previously unknown Iraqi group claimed responsibility for the attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad this week, an Arabic television channel said on Thursday.

Dubai-based Al Arabiya said it received a statement claiming responsibility for the truck bomb attack, which killed 24, from an Iraqi Islamist group calling itself the "Armed Vanguards of the Second Mohammed Army."

"The statement promised to make war on all foreigners and do similar acts," the station, showing a picture of the statement in Arabic, said.

"It warned Arab countries against sending armed forces to Iraq and called for continuing what it called acts of jihad (holy war) against all those who help the Americans, even if they are Arab or Muslim," the station said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi security guards at the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters aided the plotters of the suicide truck bombing, a UN official said Friday.

"They clearly had support from Iraqi security guards inside who gave intelligence to the planners of the attack," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"It was a well prepared attack. The target was Sergio Vieira de Mello, that much is clear," he said, referring to the top UN envoy in Iraq killed in Tuesday's bombing.

"They knew where Vieira de Mello's office was and they knew they would find him in his office and they packed the vehicle with the maximum amount of explosives. The vehicle was positioned in the spot where it would make that part of the building collapse," the official said.

He said some of the Iraqi guards at the Canal Hotel, the United Nations' headquarters in Baghdad, had been hired under the toppled regime of Saddam Hussein and had links with the fallen dictator's intelligence services.

At 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, an Eastern European flatbed truck came speeding into the UN compound, drove up to the section of the building where Vieira de Mello's office was located and exploded.

The UN official's comments confirmed a report in Friday's New York Times that investigators from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, who are assisting Iraqi police with their inquiry into the blast, were focussing on the possibility that the bombers received inside help.

Numerous unheard groups have sent written and taped statements to Arabic television channels claiming responsibility for the almost daily attacks on US troops, but these groups have mostly never been heard of again.

But Al Rabiya, which has broadcast most of the messages, broadcast a video recording on Aug. 9 from Iraqi group that also carried the name "Mohammed army." *Reuters, AFP*

Australia gov't lied about Iraq threat, inquiry told

CANBERRA—The Australian government lied about the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to justify its involvement in the US-led war, an official inquiry into intelligence on Iraq was told on Friday.

A former senior intelligence analyst, Andrew Wilkie, who resigned in March in protest over Australia's case for war, said Prime Minister John Howard, a close US ally, created a mythical Iraq by dropping ambiguous references in intelligence reports.

"The government lied every time it skewed, misrepresented, used selectively and fabricated the Iraq story... The exaggeration was so great it was pure dishonesty," Wilkie, formerly of the Office of National Assessment (ONA), told the inquiry.

The ONA is equivalent to the US National Security Agency.

"Key intelligence assessment qualifications like 'probably,' 'could' and 'uncorroborated evidence suggests' were frequently dropped. Much more useful words like massive and mammoth were included," he added.

Controversy has been raging in the United States, Britain and Australia over accusations those governments manipulated intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to justify the war with no evidence yet found of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

Wilkie's comments to the inquiry are some his strongest yet against Howard's administration. Since his resignation, Wilkie has made numerous attacks on Howard, embarrassing the Australian leader.

"I don't know on what he bases those claims. If he has got evidence of that let him produce it, otherwise stop slandering decent people," Howard told reporters in Adelaide.

"I deny his allegations... ONA has indicated that he had virtually no access to the relevant intelligence."

The Australian parliamentary hearing parallels an inquiry into the information the British government used to make its case for invading Iraq and toppling Saddam Hussein.

Prime Minister Tony Blair and Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon are due to give evidence next week at the inquiry into the suicide of weapons expert David Kelly, who was caught up in a row over the prime minister's case for war with Iraq.

Howard has said he made the right decision to send a 2,000-strong force to the Gulf despite initial public qualms, but said that intelligence could not have provided absolute proof of the Iraqi threat.

Wilkie said he believes Iraq had a disjointed weapons of mass destruction program, but said the United Nations should have been given more time to search Iraq. *Reuters*

Defiant Alabama justice 'won't deny God'

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—The Alabama Supreme Court's chief justice vowed Thursday to display his monument to the Ten Commandments in the state's Judicial Building—in defiance of federal US courts.

"I will never deny the God upon whom our laws and country depend," Chief Judge Roy Moore told reporters. He was surrounded by some 400 singing and chanting supporters.

Moore had the 2,395-kg monument installed secretly overnight in the lobby of the judicial building about two years ago.

The monument to the commandments accepted by Christians and Jews is known locally as "Roy's Rock."

Several civil liberties groups demanded the 1.2-meter-high monument be removed, citing the US Constitution's separation of church and state.

In November, US District Judge Myron Thompson ruled in their favor, ordering it removed by midnight Wednesday.

Thompson called the monument "nothing less than an obtrusive year-round religious display."

The Alabama Supreme Court appealed to the US Supreme Court, but failed. On Wednesday the US high court let stand Thompson's order to remove the monument.

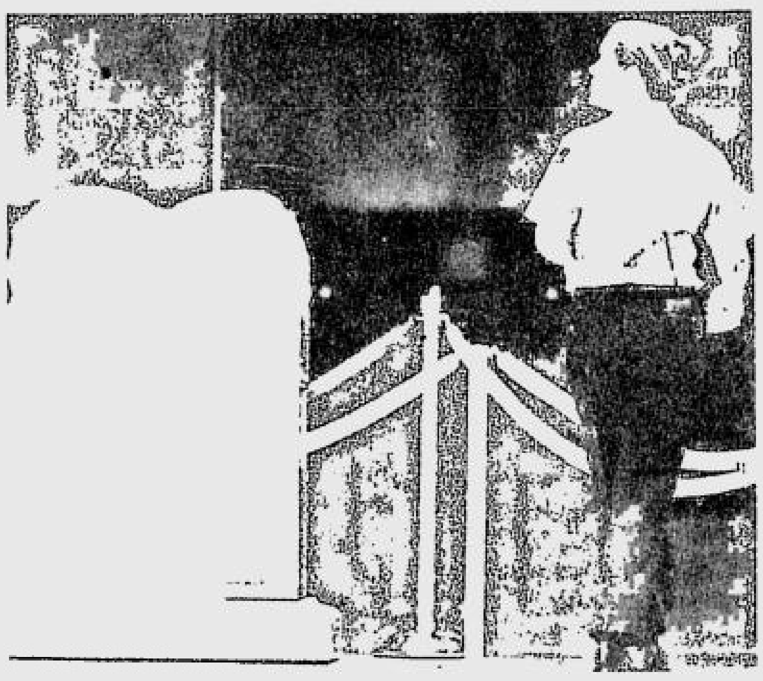
Thompson ruled that the state could be fined 5,000 dollars each day the monument remained in public view after midnight Wednesday.

On Thursday it was still there.

With Chief Judge Moore out of town, all eight associate justices voted to order the building manager to take all steps necessary to "comply with the injunction as soon as practicable."

Earlier in the day, they had ordered the monument covered with a cloth in an attempt to forestall federal fines.

When Moore learned of these developments, he rushed back to the state capital, Montgomery, and the shroud was removed. *AFP*



A SECURITY guard walks past a monument of the Ten Commandments at the Alabama Judicial Building, Aug. 21 in Montgomery, Alabama. REUTERS

Barenboim's orchestra bids to build bridges across ME divide

By Adrain Croft

PILAS, Spain—Young Israeli musicians play side by side with Palestinians and Egyptians as a shared language of classical music and love of Beethoven and Mozart overcome religious and political differences.

The youth orchestra led by conductor Daniel Barenboim has an idealistic vision of what a harmonious Middle East could be.

At a sleepy village in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia, Barenboim, an Argentine-born Israeli citizen, has assembled 80 talented musicians from Israel and Arab countries, as well as some from Spain, to try to build bridges across the divide that has led to years of bloodshed in the Middle East.

It is the fifth year that the workshop, founded by Barenboim and Palestinian writer Edward Said, has been held and the second time it has been based in Andalusia—a symbolic venue because Muslims, Christians and Jews lived together for centuries in Moorish Andalusia before the Christian Reconquest of Spain in 1492.

ARGENTINE-BORN pianist Daniel Barenboim and conductor talks to young musicians of the West Eastern Divan orchestra during the rehearsal in the Maestranza theater, in Seville, Spain, Aug. 20.

"In spite of not being political, this is a workshop that shows that when the different peoples of the region unite to create something together, they have an extraordinary quality," Barenboim said, speaking in an airy room in the former seminary of Pilas. "In that sense, it gives us an advance notice of what the Middle East might be."

Music set an example to peoples of the region because musicians learned early on that they had to reinvent their playing every day, he said.

In the same way, continued Barenboim, speaking in Spanish, "Israel has to reinvent itself, the Palestinian people has to reinvent itself, each in its own way."

He acknowledges that music is not going to resolve the Middle East conflict. "But one thing is very clear: studying music is better than studying fundamentalism for both sides," said Barenboim, 60, a distinguished pianist and music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin.

He was speaking several days before a Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Aug. 19 killed 20 people and shattered a truce key to a US-backed peace plan.

After two weeks of intensive rehearsals in Pilas, the young musicians involved in the workshop start a European tour, performing at London's Royal Albert Hall on Aug. 22.

They move to Menton in France on Aug. 26 and give three concerts in Germany—at Kiel on Aug. 28, Haseldorf on Aug. 29 and Berlin on Aug. 31.

In a first this year, the orchestra will perform in an Arab country, something that has proved politically difficult in the past for a mixed Israeli-Arab ensemble. It will play in Rabat, Morocco, on Aug. 24.

Barenboim and Said were honored last year with Spain's highest peace award, the Prince of Asturias's Concord prize, for their efforts to promote Middle East reconciliation.

Barenboim is no stranger to controversy. In September last year, he conducted a concert in the West Bank city of Ramallah in the face of criticism by some Israelis.

In 2001, he angered survivors of the Holocaust by conducting a Berlin Staatskapelle concert in Israel featuring a work by Richard Wagner, Adolf Hitler's favorite composer.

The chance to meet musicians from other cultures, as well as receiving coaching from Barenboim and a team of expert helpers, is valued by all of the young musicians who were chosen for the workshop in auditions held throughout the Middle East. *Reuters*

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Lack of livelihood forcing Bugkalots into illegal logging

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Lack of job opportunities has forced many Bugkalots to illegal logging in the watershed area of the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP) in Alfonso Castañeda town, some 170 km from this town, officials said.

They said most of the Bugkalots were lured by the demand of businessmen involved in selling lumber in the lowlands to support their families.

"We do not have enough livelihood. Our fellow Bugkalots lack the necessary skills for possible employment whether in the CMIPP or outside the project. So, where can we earn money for our family?" asked Putado Gabogen, chief of Barangay Pelaway in Alfonso Castañeda.

Gabogen, along with members of the Bugkalot Ancestral Land Domain Association of Alfonso Castañeda (BALDAAC), met with environment and local officials on Tuesday over the possible release of more than 54 cubic meters of narra, cut into lumber, flitches and stomps, which were scattered in the area and stocked in four furniture shops in Pelaway.

The BALDAAC was granted rights to harvest a limited volume of forest products in the watershed area under the certificate of ancestral domain claim program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Our people earned them the hard way, especially now that many of them are stricken with malaria," Gabogen told the INQUIRER.

Alfonso Castañeda has been declared under a state of calamity after malaria-carrying mosquitoes killed 14 Bugkalots and affected more than 100 villagers last month.

The narra flitches and stomps were left in Pelaway after a team of police and environment officials failed to take the lumber early this month due to the refusal of the villagers.

Four furniture shop owners from Quirino have been charged by the DENR.

Citing a court order, environment and local officials also asked the Bugkalots to dispose of the remaining 17 cubic meters of narra lumber before the end of this month and allow the transport of other narra lumber and flitches to the lowland as evidence in the case.

The narra lumber were supposed to have been disposed of in May this year through a permit issued by the DENR to BALDAAC. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-MILF camp converted into agro-industrial site

DAVAO CITY—Camp Abubakar, the former main base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), has been converted into an agro-industrial complex and would soon be contributing substantially to the economic progress of Mindanao, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said on Wednesday.

Lorenzo made the announcement after visiting the former rebel camp last week to assess the progress made in the implementation of agricultural projects there, which the government launched several months ago.

In a statement, Lorenzo said the Department of Agriculture has poured in over P95 million into agricultural development projects, including cattle dispersal, in Camp Abubakar and in municipalities that are near the former main MILF camp in Maguindanao.

"The idea was to convert the camp and the surrounding area into an integrated sustainable development area for agricultural development," he said.

The Iranun Development Council, which has been tasked with overseeing the economic development of Camp Abubakar and the towns that surround the camp—Barira, Buldon and Matanog—has reported that P23 million was spent in the area last year for the repair of farm-to-market roads, construction of access roads, hanging foot bridges and 24 units of multi-purpose solar driers.

"The Household Enhancement and Livelihood Program disbursed P5 million for the training of farmers in modern cultivation technology, planting of fruit trees and establishment of demonstration orchards and farms to help former Muslim rebels re-establish themselves in agricultural activities and (in) raising happy families," he said.

Lorenzo also said the national government spent P24.1 million to provide residents of Camp Abubakar and the towns surrounding it with three tractors, six corn huskers and shellers, 312 head of carabaos, corn seeds, vegetable seeds and assorted planting materials.

"We are more than willing to pour more resources into these places to help bring peace to this war-ravaged region of Mindanao," said Lorenzo.

Lorenzo said with economic development, lawlessness and rebellion would soon be wiped out from these distressed areas. He said poverty is one of the main causes of the rebellion.

Aside from the government fund to develop the former rebel base, the United States also pledged to release more assistance in the form of funds and materials once a peace deal with the MILF had been signed.

The government and MILF has not scheduled yet the resumption of peace talks in Malaysia and clashes continue between government soldiers and MILF guerrillas. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Barge with 3,000 MT of coal tilts off Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A barge carrying an estimated 3,000 metric tons of coal was forced to anchor off the coast of Boracay Island Monday after it tilted on its side, according to the Coast Guard in Western Visayas.

The vessel Rizza was being pulled by tugboat Michael when it listed on its left side by 35 degrees at around 1:30 p.m., said Capt. Isidro Banaria, coast district commander, in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The barge anchored 100 yards off Lapus-Lapus in Barangay Yapak in the northeast portion of the island-resort. It was carrying coal from Semirara Island, Caluya town, Antique and was bound for Cebu when it experienced the listing.

Banaria said they were still investigating the cause of the listing.

Four Coast guard divers and four other volunteers found no damage or holes in the barge, he said.

The Manila-based Asian Shipping Company, which owns the barge and tugboat, has sent another barge where the coal cargo would be transferred, said Banaria. The barge was expected to arrive in the area on Wednesday.

Reyes gets backing from batch mates, members of other classes at PMA

MEMBERS of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1966 expressed support to embattled Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, saying Reyes should remain in his post and not give in to pressure from what the group said were puppeteers who were exploiting the idealism of young officers.

In a manifesto, the alumni condemned the July 27 Oakwood Mutiny and other plots to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Copies of the manifesto were sent to the President, the armed forces chief, legislators, the head of the PMA Alumni Association and the leaders of the Association of General and Flag Officers.

Col. Hercules Galon (ret.), Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Gopilan (ret.), Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez (ret.), Commodore Jose Agudezo (ret.), Commodore Ruben Espejo, Maj. Gen. Vic Belo, Maj. Gen. Leo Alvez, Brig. Gen. Sergio Belleza, (ret.), Rear Admiral Eriberto Varona (ret.), Brig. Gen. Jesie James Catral and Brig. Gen. Baltazar Regalado (ret.) were just among the few who signed the manifesto.

The PMA Class '66 appealed to their colleagues in the military to uphold the "time-honored tradition" in the military—obey first before you complain—as they continue to acknowledge the instructions of Reyes.

In a statement, the members of the class said they are united in promoting peace and order and safeguarding the sovereignty of the country.

They, however, said they pitied the junior officers who they said were manipulated by people who wanted to grab power.

They also urged the government to punish the brains of the mutiny.

Another PMA graduate, Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr., also questioned what he said was the moral ascendancy of Navy Lt. (s.g) Antonio Trillanes.

Noble, member of the PMA's class '74, criticized Trillanes and other mutiny leaders for their failure to strictly observe the pledge of loyalty being recited by PMA cadets.

"As cadet officers, we recite the pledge of loyalty daily. Why can't they apply it? How can they give command if they, themselves, do not know how to obey orders?" he asked.

Capiz to honor Roxas

ROXAS CITY—Starting next year, Capicenons will mark April 15 as President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial Day.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 4 signed into law Republic Act 9217, declaring April 15 as a special non-working holiday in Capiz in commemoration of his death anniversary.

Capiz Rep. Rodriguez Dadivas said the declaration was the "most valuable gift and fitting tribute" to the late President. *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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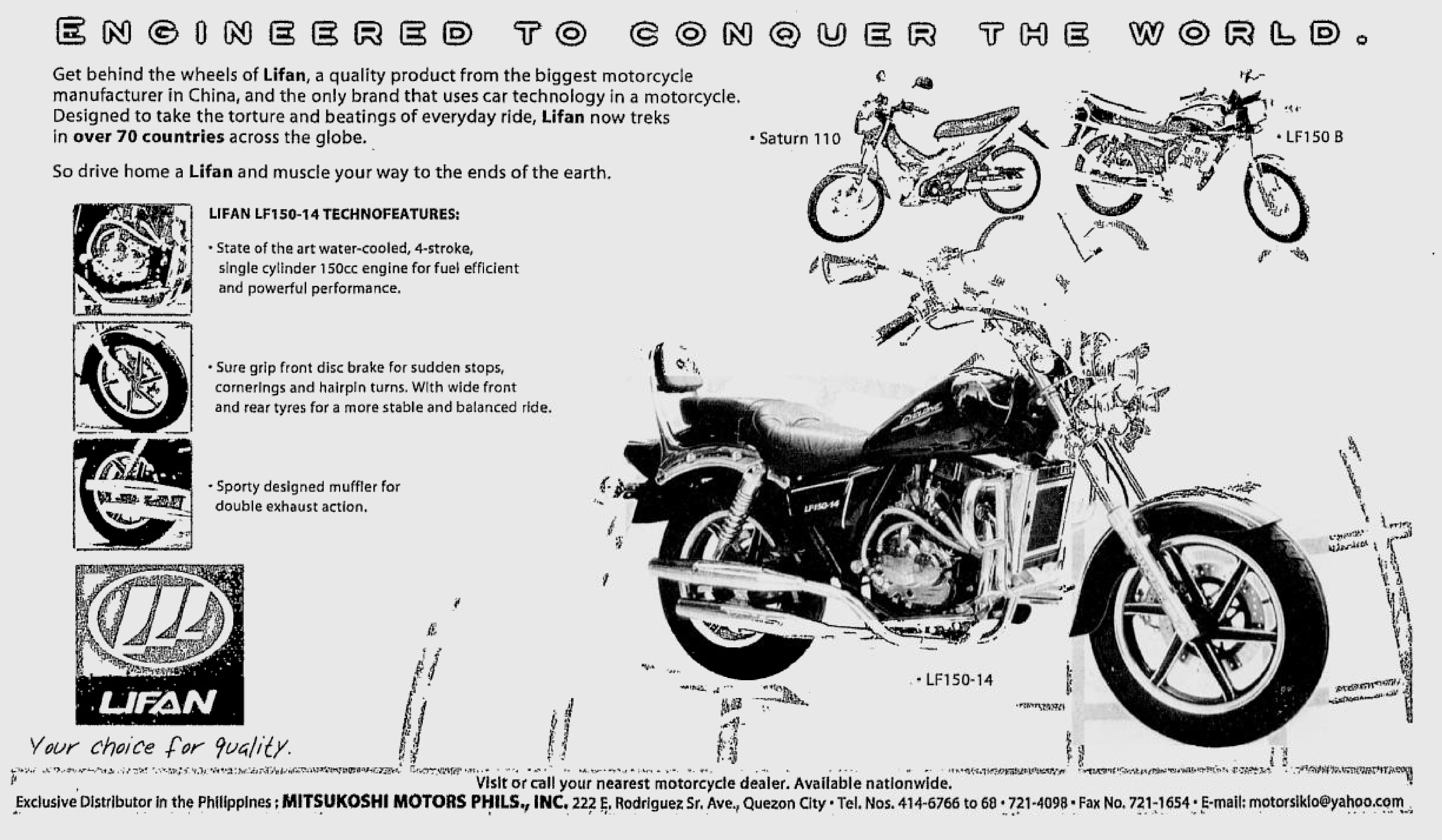

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Deacon's killing baffles probers

By Cynthia A. Borgueta
Tacloban City

THE FAMILY would have had a priest in April when Godofredo "Dingdong" Quimsing Jr. was scheduled for ordination. But two months before the event, he was shot and killed by unidentified men who attacked his Izusu Highlander van while cruising along the Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Tacloban City.

Six months after the Feb. 25 murder, Dingdong's family, relatives and friends continue to ask the same question: "What is the status of Dingdong's case? Who is responsible for his death?"

Streamers are hung on churches, buildings and several major streets in Tacloban that read: "We renounce the brutal slaying of our brother deacon … we cry for justice … we hunger for truth. Let us pray for his eternal repose."

The victim's father Godofredo Sr. is appealing to witnesses to come out in the open and help investigators. He has been on an indefinite leave of absence as city legal officer since July to concentrate on the case so that justice will finally be served.

A puzzle

Dingdong's death has remained a puzzle for the National Bureau of Investigation, which has yet to arrest a suspect.

Antonio Pagatpat, NBI assistant director for Eastern Visayas and lead investigator, asked the victim's family and friends for more time as his team was doing its best to solve the case. He said they already had a list of suspects, but he refused to name them as the testimonies of the witnesses were still being validated.

Pagatpat admitted to having difficulty convincing some witnesses to cooperate.

Two witnesses could not be found, he said. "I don't know what happened to these witnesses. We tried to find them but they are no longer in their addresses," he said.

"I want to assure the family of Dingdong that we have witnesses who offer strong evidence against the suspects and in due time, we will arrest them," Pagatpat added.

Dingdong and a companion, Albert Arranguez, 19, were on their way home when their vehicle was fired upon at about 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 25. Police recovered 20 M-16 empty shells and two M-14 empty shells from the scene of the attack.

Dingdong had seven bullet wounds and died in the hospital in Tacloban.

Arranguez suffered two bullet wounds and was placed under the custody of the NBI after he was discharged from the hospital. A week later, his older brother fetched him from the NBI and brought him back to Cebu.

Mistaken identity

Pagatpat said they were working on the theory that Dingdong was killed because he was mistaken for a drug lord operating in Eastern Visayas.

He said they were looking into the possible involvement of some police officials after two witnesses noted that the attackers were on board a white car and carrying high-powered firearms.

Hours before the ambush, Pagatpat said Chief Supt. Dionesio Coloma, regional police director, and his men were conducting an operation against Eric Von "Noke" Sierras, an alleged big-time drug trafficker based in Tacloban.

"I was not the only one who was aware that he and his men were seen roaming around the city displaying high-powered firearms," Pagatpat said. Coloma and his men, he added, were on board a white car.

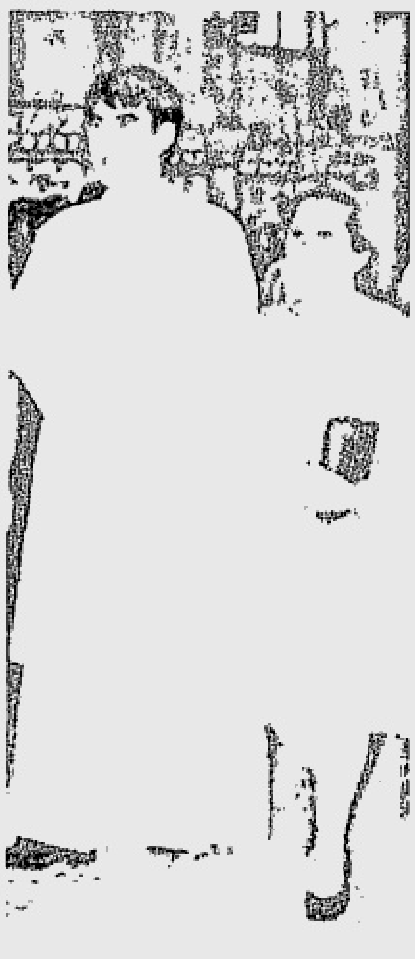
He said the NBI did not discount the possibility that Coloma and his men might have killed Dingdong after they mistook him for Noke. The local Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency listed Noke as the region's No. 1 suspected drug trafficker and No. 8 nationwide.

Strong denial

Coloma dismissed Pagatpat's statements as purely insinuations, although he confirmed that he and his men were patrolling the streets at the time of the ambush. "Just because we were seen roaming around the city at that time, the NBI already considered us as suspects in the killing of Dingdong?" he said.

He said he volunteered to go with his men to look for Sierras on the night of Feb. 24 to serve a pending arrest warrant for charges of slight physical injuries. "I personally went with my men as I received many calls from the residents complaining against Sierras."

But Coloma said he did not stay long as he returned to Camp Ruperto Kangleon, headquarters of the Police Regional Office, at about midnight.



QUIMSING Jr. with his mother Rosario. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He said he and Supt. Arnulfo Cruz, Tacloban police chief, were among the first to arrive at the crime scene upon learning of the ambush.

"I am not responsible for Dingdong's death," he said. In fact, he added, he was the first to inform Palo Archbishop Pedro Dean Jr. about what happened to the deacon.

More questions

Yet, Pagatpat found it strange that Coloma, a top ranking police officer in the region, would involve himself in hunting down somebody who has been charged with a mere slight physical injury.

The insinuations that the police might be involved irritated Cruz.

"Why is the NBI suspecting the police? Why should they focus in this angle? Why don't they focus their investigation on the possibility that Dingdong was murdered by drug lords because he was mistaken for his older brother who is widely known to have friends engaged in illegal drug trade?" he asked.

Quincy Norman, elder brother of Dingdong, works for the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

Cruz said it was possible that the drug lords killed Dingdong after they mistook him for Quincy. He pointed out that the victim was driving the same kind of vehicle that Quincy usually used.

Cruz said Quincy Norman was known to have "connections" with local big-time drug dealers.

He also pointed out that the police had made a mistake when an investigator stated in the blotter entry that the gunmen used a white car. The vehicle used by the suspect was black, contrary to the claim of Arranguez in his sworn statement, Cruz said.

Muddling the issue

Godofredo Sr., brushed aside this theory, claiming that the police just wanted to muddle the investigation. "I do not understand why the police should insist that it was a black (car)," he said.

He recalled that two weeks after the ambush, he asked Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, PNP chief, to relieve Coloma from his post. "I was informed that because of Coloma, these witnesses were afraid to testify. That is why I requested for his relief," he added.

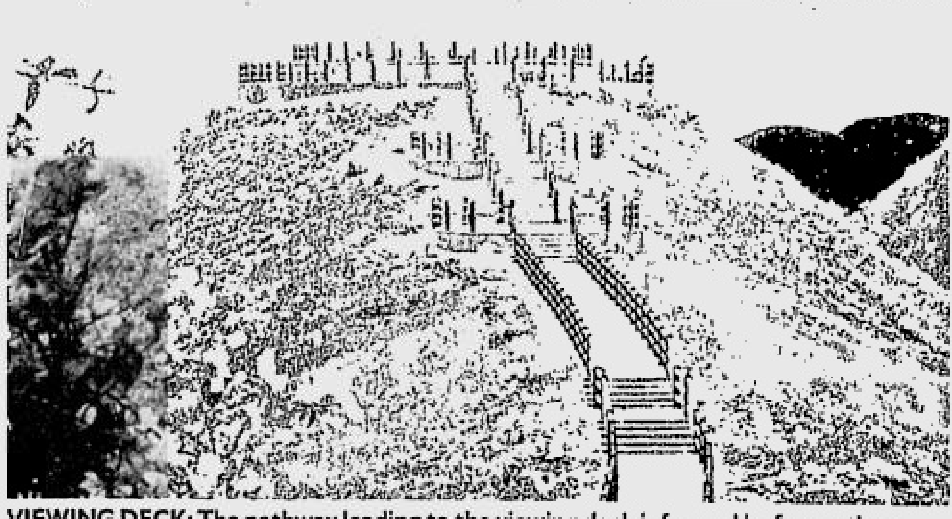
To his dismay, however, Ebdane turned down his request.

Godofredo Sr. said he wrote to Cruz on April 23, asking the police's sense of justice and fairness in handling the case.

"As it is the responsibility of your office to see to it that there should be no suppression of evidence but instead for your office to help in finding the truth of what actually happened to my son," the victim's father said in his letter.

Cruz had yet to respond to the letter, he added.

Pagatpat said his men found it hard to convince other witnesses to come out. "I heard that (the witnesses) are being harassed by some officials of the PNP," he said. He refused to elaborate.



VIEWING DECK: The pathway leading to the viewing deck is framed by fences that resemble a miniature Great Wall of China. NILO SAPONG

Sagbayan Peak: A view from the top

By Chito A. Fuentes
Tagbilaran City

THERE'S a new way to look at the world-famous Chocolate Hills. It is through a mountain resort called the Sagbayan Peak in Sagbayan town, some 75 km northwest of Tagbilaran City.

The viewing is made easy and elegant from the deck of an elevated ridge that provides not only a magnificent scan of the fabled hills but also the sea off Cebu City. Better yet, the sight is unobstructed from all sides.

Although it was officially inaugurated on May 31, the peak is already experiencing a steady stream of visitors, mostly local residents and domestic tourists.

As the place is only 18 km from the original viewing station at the Chocolate Hills complex in neighboring Carmen town, most of the visitors, who take either private or hired vehicles, shuttle between the two towns for a comparative look.

"This is our view of the hills," declared Sagbayan Mayor Jimmy Torrefranca.

From the start, he said, the peak never intended to compete with the viewing station in Carmen. But he said he believed no town had a monopoly of the scenic sight.

Sagbayan is merely staking its claim to its share of revenues after sleeping on the tourism potentials of the unique hill formations, Torrefranca said.

Overwhelming

Although the Chocolate Hills are found in Carmen, Sagbayan and Batuan, only Carmen has offered a viewing station. "This is just another perspective that is a comfortable option especially to people from Cebu who don't have much time to spare," Torrefranca said.

The mayor said he and his playmates were fascinated by the sight from the hills when they were boys. "We would climb up these hills and gaze at the sea," he recalled.

He merely chuckled when quizzed on what thoughts must have crossed their minds while staring at the horizon. But he admitted that the view continued to overwhelm him every time he climbed these hills.

Torrefranca said he got distracted along the way by other pursuits and forgot about the hills until early this year.

The idea struck the mayor when the owner of about five hectares of land, including the ridge where the viewing deck is located, came to him and offered to sell it. "I remembered my boyhood dreams, so we immediate grabbed the offer," he said.

With his cousin, Manila-based businessman Allan Torrefranca, his wife Delia and the mayor's wife Myrna, a business venture was sealed and the Sagbayan Peak was born.

The mayor said his wife suggested the name after Hong Kong's Victoria Peak.

Although work started slowly, word about the project got around fast. This was not surprising since the structure rises just 600 meters from the national highway.

Even before the place was officially opened to the public, curious residents already started trekking toward the ridge. Soon, people from other towns joined in and the line of visitors grew longer.

"Although that was what we had in mind at the start, we realized that the magnificent view should be shared with people who wanted to take a good look at them," Torrefranca remarked, his hands gesturing at the panorama as he spoke.

Last Holy Thursday, the Sagbayan Peak was officially opened to the public.

From all walks of life

The first batch of visitors motored in on Black Saturday. Since then, the beeline has grown longer, aided by the heaviest tourism turnout ever experienced by the province in recent years.

Even on weekdays, visitors of all shapes, sizes and ages traverse the nearly 200-meter concrete walk from the function hall to the viewing station.

Since the approach is a leisurely and gradual climb, even elderly guests sample the walk framed by concrete fences that resemble a miniature Great Wall of China from afar.

"Most of our guests are Boholanos escorting *balikbayan* relatives and friends. Unknown to the latter, many of their guides actually visited the Sagbayan Peak for the first time," Torrefranca revealed.

On May 31, the place was officially inaugurated with Patria Aurora Roa, tourism director for Central Visayas, as main guest.

Roa said she was happy to see the latest addition to Bohol's tourist attractions. This was echoed by Gov. Erico Aumentado, who said the Sagbayan Peak "is a welcome note for Bohol tourism."

The resort is open from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Torrefranca said that while the resort allows guests wearing shorts and sandals, those with slippers are politely turned down to maintain the dignity of the place.

Pleasantly surprised by the initial success of their venture, the Torrefranca cousins have started setting their sights.

In addition to the function hall and viewing deck, a hotel, swimming pool, driving range, a butterfly dome and even a tarsier sanctuary are now on the drawing board.

Torrefranca admitted one obstruction to the development of the Sagbayan Peak. Although he has received word from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Visayas that his application for an environmental compliance certificate was already being processed, he had actually received three cease-and-desist orders.

While he acknowledged Aumentado's promise to help facilitate the titling of the area, Torrefranca said government agencies should coordinate their efforts so that development projects could be implemented smoothly.

Still, the mayor has remained optimistic that the venture would be able to hurdle this one last obstacle.

Once is not enough for a harasser

LUCID INTERVAL
Rowena V. Guanzon

USUALLY, one conviction is enough to stop sexual harassers. But Henry Bernardio, an engineer in the Provincial Engineer's Office of Antique, does not learn his lesson.

In 2001, he was found guilty of committing sexual harassment against a woman from Negros Occidental who was then an applicant in the Planning and Development Office, which he used to head.

A committee created by then Gov. Exequiel Javier recommended his suspension for six months. When Gov. Sally Perez took over, she affirmed the committee's recommendation. But a few weeks later, Bernardio was detailed in the Governor's Office, perhaps to make it easier for Perez to keep an eye on him.

After one month, Bernardio was detailed to the Engineer's Office where he was again charged with sexually harassing a casual employee. The Ombudsman suspended him for six months. The Ilonggos have a term for this, when someone doesn't stop after the first warning: "*Gapadayaw*."

The complainant does not have faith in an investigating committee in the provincial government, so she filed her complaint with the Ombudsman. This is a common apprehension among victims. Government employees, who sit in the Committee on Decorum and Investigation for sexual harassment cases, are vulnerable to the influence and threats of respondents who usually hold higher ranks.

The Civil Service Commission should amend its rules on sexual harassment to make preventive suspension for a fixed period automatic where the respondents hold a certain rank. Interestingly, in an administrative case for sexual harassment filed by a female civilian employee in the Philippine Coast Guard, it is the opposite. It is the respondent who has a rank of captain (or full colonel in the police or army) who is crying out that his case is being railroaded by the Efficiency and Separation Board, which is composed of captains and a commodore.

From what I know about Governor Perez, she is not one who will tolerate violence against women. I visited her a few months ago, together with Japanese guests who are supporting our former comfort woman, Lola Tomasa Salinog. The governor was upset that about half of the rape cases filed with the Provincial Prosecutor's Office have been dismissed.

It is good politics for all mayors and governors to have a firm stand against sexual harassment. Sexual harassers will only be deterred if they are afraid they will lose their jobs.

Sexual harassment as a crime under Republic Act No. 7877 carries a penalty of only six months imprisonment and/or a fine, which is why it is better to file for acts of lasciviousness, for which a heavier penalty is imposed.

The complainant in Antique, who was charged by Bernardio with perjury, should consider filing a criminal complaint. If the prosecutor is biased, she can request the Regional State Prosecutor to take over the case.

In Bacolod City, the first and so far only criminal case of sexual harassment was decided by Judge Alfredo Hilario last year. The defendant was Franklin Villanueva, who was then a producer of a local television program, and the complainant was an intern in Villanueva's company as a school requirement.

Villanueva took the girl to a motel. Judge Hilario convicted Villanueva both for sexual harassment and acts of lasciviousness.

In Negros Occidental, Gov. Joseph Marañon has ordered all 800 provincial employees and officials to attend a seminar/symposium on sexual harassment in the first week of September.

According to Board Member Cora Diploma, the provincial government is also willing to fund the printing of a manual for police personnel on how to handle cases of violence against women.

Marañon's administration might qualify for the most gender sensitive provincial government so far, but this will be tested if a complaint for sexual harassment is filed during his term. To prevent sexual harassment, the governor wants to make sure all his officials and employees know the law and the Civil Service Administrative Disciplinary Rules on Sexual Harassment.

Perhaps Governor Sally of Antique will follow suit and make sure Bernardio attend.

REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

R.A. NO. 9160, AS AMENDED BY R.A. NO. 9194

RULE 1
Title

Rule 1.a. Title - These Rules shall be known and cited as the "Revised Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 9160" (the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 [AMLA]), AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194.

Rule 1.b. Purpose. - These Rules are promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the AMLA, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194.

RULE 2
Declaration of Policy

Rule 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the integrity and confidentiality of bank accounts and to ensure that the Philippines shall not be used as money laundering site for the proceeds of any unlawful activity. Consistent with its foreign policy, the Philippines shall extend cooperation in transnational investigations and prosecutions of persons involved in money laundering activities wherever committed

RULE 3
Definitions

Rule 3. Definitions. – For purposes of THIS Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows

Rule 3. a. "*Covered Institution*" refers to:

Rule 3.a.1. Banks, offshore banking units, quasi-banks, trust entities, non-stock savings and loan associations, pawnshops, and all other institutions, including their subsidiaries and affiliates supervised and/or regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

(a) A subsidiary means an entity more than fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding voting stock of which is owned by a bank, quasi-bank, trust entity or any other institution supervised or regulated by the BSP.

(b) An affiliate means an entity at least twenty percent (20%) but not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the voting stock of which is owned by a bank, quasi-bank, trust entity, or any other institution supervised and/or regulated by the BSP.

Rule 3.a.2. Insurance companies, insurance agents, insurance brokers, professional reinsurers, reinsurance brokers, holding companies, holding company systems and all other persons and entities supervised and/or regulated by the Insurance Commission (IC)

(a) An insurance company includes those entities authorized to transact insurance business in the Philippines whether life or non-life and whether domestic, domestically incorporated or branch of a foreign entity. A contract of insurance is an agreement whereby one undertakes for a consideration to indemnify another against loss, damage or liability arising from an unknown or contingent event. Transacting insurance business includes making or proposing to make, as insurer, any insurance contract, or as surety, any contract of suretyship as a vocation and not as merely incidental to any other legitimate business or activity of the surety, doing any kind of business specifically recognized as constituting the doing of an insurance business within the meaning of Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 612, as amended, including a reinsurance business and doing or proposing to do any business in substance equivalent to any of the foregoing in a manner designed to evade the provisions of P.D. No. 612, as amended

(b) An insurance agent includes any person who solicits or obtains insurance on behalf of any insurance company or transmits for a person other than himself an application for a policy or contract of insurance to or from such company or offers or assumes to act in the negotiation of such insurance

(c) An insurance broker includes any person who acts or aids in any manner in soliciting, negotiating or procuring the making of any insurance contract or in placing risk or taking out insurance, on behalf of an insured other than himself

(d) A professional reinsurer includes any person, partnership, association or corporation that transacts solely and exclusively reinsurance business in the Philippines, whether domestic, domestically incorporated or a branch of a foreign entity. A contract of reinsurance is one by which an insurer procures a third person to insure him against loss or liability by reason of such original insurance

(e) A reinsurance broker includes any person who, not being a duly authorized agent, employee or officer of an insurer in which any reinsurance is effected, acts or aids in any manner in negotiating contracts of reinsurance or placing risks of effecting reinsurance, for any insurance company authorized to do business in the Philippines

(f) A holding company includes any person who directly or indirectly controls any authorized insurer. A holding company system includes a holding company together with its controlled insurers and controlled persons.

Rule 3.a.3. (i) Securities dealers, brokers, salesmen, associated persons of brokers or dealers, investment houses, investment agents and consultants, trading advisors, and other entities managing securities or rendering similar services, (ii) mutual funds or open-end investment companies, close-end investment companies, common trust funds, pre-need companies or issuers and other similar entities, (iii) foreign exchange corporations, money changers, money payment, remittance, and transfer companies and other similar entities; and (iv) other entities administering or otherwise dealing in currency, commodities or financial derivatives based thereon, valuable objects, cash substitutes and other similar monetary instruments or property supervised and/or regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

(a) A securities broker includes a person engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for the account of others.

(b) A securities dealer includes any person who buys and sells securities for his/her account in the ordinary course of business.

(c) A securities salesman includes a natural person, employed as such or as an agent, by a dealer, issuer or broker to buy and sell securities

(d) An associated person of a broker or dealer includes an employee thereof who directly exercises control or supervisory authority, but does not include a salesman, or an agent or a person whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial.

(e) An investment house includes an enterprise which engages or purports to engage, whether regularly or on an isolated basis, in the underwriting of securities of another person or enterprise, including securities of the Government and its instrumentalities

(f) A mutual fund or an open-end investment company includes an investment company which is offering for sale or has outstanding, any redeemable security of which it is the issuer.

(g) A closed-end investment company includes an investment company other than open-end investment company

(h) A common trust fund includes a fund maintained by an entity authorized to perform trust functions under a written and formally established plan, exclusively for the collective investment and reinvestment of certain money representing participation in the plan received by it in its capacity as trustee, for the purpose of administration, holding or management of such funds and/or properties for the use, benefit or advantage of the trustor or of others known as beneficiaries

(i) A pre-need company or issuer includes any corporation supervised and/or regulated by the SEC and is authorized or licensed to sell or offer for sale pre-need plans. Pre-need plans are contracts which provide for the performance of future service(s) or payment of future monetary consideration at the time of actual need, payable either in cash or installment by the planholder at prices stated in the contract with or without interest or insurance coverage and includes life, pension, education, interment and other plans which the Commission may, from time to time, approve

(j) A foreign exchange corporation includes any enterprise which engages or purports to engage, whether regularly or on an isolated basis, in the sale and purchase of foreign currency notes and such other foreign-currency denominated non-bank deposit transactions as may be authorized under its articles of incorporation.

(k) Investment Advisor/Agent/Consultant shall refer to any person:

(1) who for an advisory fee is engaged in the business of advising others, either directly or through circulars, reports, publications or writings, as to the value of any security and as to the advisability of trading in any security; or

(2) who for compensation and as part of a regular business, issues or promulgates, analyzes reports concerning the capital market, except:

(a) any bank or trust company;
(b) any journalist, reporter, columnist, editor, lawyer, accountant, teacher;
(c) the publisher of any bonafide newspaper, news, business or financial publication of general and regular circulation, including their employees;
(d) any contract market;
(e) such other person not within the intent of this definition, provided that the furnishing of such service by the foregoing persons is solely incidental to the conduct of their business or profession.

(3) any person who undertakes the management of portfolio securities of investment companies, including the arrangement of purchases, sales or exchanges of securities

(l) A moneychanger includes any person in the business of buying or selling foreign currency notes

(m) A money payment, remittance and transfer company includes any person offering to pay, remit or transfer or transmit money on behalf of any person to another person

(n) "Customer" refers to any person or entity that keeps an account, or otherwise transacts business, with a covered institution and any person or entity on whose behalf an account is maintained or a transaction is conducted, as well as the beneficiary of said transactions. A customer also includes the beneficiary of a trust, an investment fund, a pension fund or a company or person whose assets are managed by an asset manager, or a grantor of a trust. It includes any insurance policy holder, whether actual or prospective.

(o) "Property" includes any thing or item of value, real or personal, tangible or intangible, or any interest therein or any benefit, privilege, claim or right with respect thereto

Rule 3.b. "COVERED TRANSACTION" IS A TRANSACTION IN CASH OR OTHER EQUIVALENT MONETARY INSTRUMENT INVOLVING A TOTAL AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP500,000.00) WITHIN ONE (1) BANKING DAY.

Rule 3.b.1. SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS ARE TRANSACTIONS, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT, WHERE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTS:

1. THERE IS NO UNDERLYING LEGAL OR TRADE OBLIGATION, PURPOSE OR ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION;
2. THE CLIENT IS NOT PROPERLY IDENTIFIED;
3. THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IS NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE BUSINESS OR FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF THE CLIENT;
4. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL KNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MAY BE PERCEIVED THAT THE CLIENT'S TRANSACTION IS STRUCTURED IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING THE SUBJECT OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ACT;
5. ANY CIRCUMSTANCE RELATING TO THE TRANSACTION WHICH IS OBSERVED TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROFILE OF THE CLIENT AND/OR THE CLIENT'S PAST TRANSACTIONS WITH THE COVERED INSTITUTION;
6. THE TRANSACTION IS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO AN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY OR ANY MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITY OR OFFENSE UNDER THIS ACT THAT IS ABOUT TO BE, IS BEING OR HAS BEEN COMMITTED; OR
7. ANY TRANSACTION THAT IS SIMILAR, ANALOGOUS OR IDENTICAL TO ANY OF THE FOREGOING."

Rule 3.c. "Monetary Instrument" refers to

(1) Coins or currency of legal tender of the Philippines, or of any other country,
(2) Drafts, checks and notes,
(3) Securities or negotiable instruments, bonds, commercial papers, deposit certificates, trust certificates, custodial receipts or deposit substitute instruments, trading orders, transaction tickets and confirmations of sale or investments and money market instruments;
(4) Contracts or policies of insurance, life or non-life, and contracts of suretyship, and
(5) Other similar instruments where title thereto passes to another by endorsement, assignment or delivery

Rule 3.d. "Offender" refers to any person who commits a money laundering offense

Rule 3.e. "Person" refers to any natural or juridical person

Rule 3.f "Proceeds" refers to an amount derived or realized from an unlawful activity. It includes:

(1) All material results, profits, effects and any amount realized from any unlawful activity,

(2) All monetary, financial or economic means, devices, documents, papers or things used in or having any relation to any unlawful activity, and

(3) All moneys, expenditures, payments, disbursements, costs, outlays, charges, accounts, refunds and other similar items for the financing, operations, and maintenance of any unlawful activity.

Rule 3.g. "Supervising Authority" refers to the BSP, the SEC and the IC. Where the BSP, SEC or IC supervision applies only to the registration of the covered institution; the BSP, the SEC or the IC, within the limits of the AMLA, shall have the authority to require and ask assistance from the government agency having regulatory power and/or licensing authority over said covered institution for the implementation and enforcement of the AMLA and these Rules

Rule 3.h. "Transaction" refers to any act establishing any right or obligation or giving rise to any contractual or legal relationship between the parties thereto. It also includes any movement of funds by any means with a covered institution

Rule 3.i. "Unlawful activity" refers to any act or omission or series or combination thereof involving or having relation, to the following:

(A) Kidnapping for ransom under Article 267 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, as amended;

(1) Kidnapping for ransom

(B) Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12,13, 14, 15 and 16 of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the COMPREHENSIVE Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002;

(2) Importation of prohibited drugs,
(3) Sale of prohibited drugs;
(4) Administration of prohibited drugs;
(5) Delivery of prohibited drugs
(6) Distribution of prohibited drugs
(7) Transportation of prohibited drugs
(8) Maintenance of a Den, Dive or Resort for prohibited users
(9) Manufacture of prohibited drugs
(10) Possession of prohibited drugs
(11) Use of prohibited drugs
(12) Cultivation of plants which are sources of prohibited drugs
(13) Culture of plants which are sources of prohibited drugs

(C) Section 3 paragraphs b, c, e, g, h and i of Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act;

(14) Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present, share, percentage or benefit for himself or for any other person in connection with any contract or transaction between the Government and any party, wherein the public officer in his official capacity has to intervene under the law;
(15) Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present or other pecuniary or material benefit, for himself or for another, from any person for whom the public officer, in any manner or capacity, has secured or obtained, or will secure or obtain, any government permit or license, in consideration for the help given or to be given, without prejudice to Section 13 of R.A. 3019.
(16) Causing any undue injury to any party, including the government, or giving any private party any unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference in the discharge of his official, administrative or judicial functions through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence;
(17) Entering, on behalf of the government, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the same, whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby;
(18) Directly or indirectly having financial or pecuniary interest in any business contract or transaction in connection with which he intervenes or takes part in his official capacity, or in which he is prohibited by the Constitution or by any law from having any interest,
(19) Directly or indirectly becoming interested, for personal gain, or having material interest in any transaction or act requiring the approval of a board, panel or group of which he is a member, and which exercise of discretion in such approval, even if he votes against the same or he does not participate in the action of the board, committee, panel or group.

(D) Plunder under Republic Act No. 7080, as amended;

(20) Plunder through misappropriation, conversion, misuse or malversation of public funds or raids upon the public treasury;
(21) Plunder by receiving, directly or indirectly, any commission, gift, share, percentage, kickbacks or any other form of pecuniary benefit from any person and/or entity in connection with any government contract or project or by reason of the office or position of the public officer concerned.
(22) Plunder by the illegal or fraudulent conveyance or disposition of assets belonging to the National Government or any of its subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities or government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.
(23) Plunder by obtaining, receiving or accepting, directly or indirectly, any shares of stock, equity or any other form of interest or participation including the promise of future employment in any business enterprise or undertaking;
(24) Plunder by establishing agricultural, industrial or commercial monopolies or other combinations and/or implementation of decrees and orders intended to benefit particular persons or special interests;
(25) Plunder by taking undue advantage of official position, authority, relationship, connection or influence to unjustly enrich himself or themselves at the expense and to the damage and prejudice of the Filipino people and the Republic of the Philippines.

(E) Robbery and extortion under Articles 294, 295, 296, 299, 300, 301 and 302 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended;

(26) Robbery with violence or intimidation of persons.
(27) Robbery with physical injuries, committed in an uninhabited place and by a band, or with use of firearms on a street, road or alley.
(28) Robbery in an uninhabited house or public building or edifice devoted to worship

(F) Jueteng and Masiao punished as illegal gambling under Presidential Decree No. 1602

(29) Jueteng
(30) Masiao

(G) Piracy on the high seas under the Revised Penal Code, as amended and Presidential Decree No. 532;

(31) Piracy on the high seas;
(32) Piracy in inland Philippine waters;
(33) Aiding and abetting pirates and brigands

(H) Qualified theft under Article 310 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended;

(34) Qualified theft

(I) Swindling under Article 315 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended;

(35) Estafa with unfaithfulness or abuse of confidence by altering the substance, quality or quantity of anything of value which the offender shall deliver by virtue of an obligation to do so, even though such obligation be based on an immoral or illegal consideration,
(36) Estafa with unfaithfulness or abuse of confidence by misappropriating or converting, to the prejudice of another, money, goods or any other personal property received by the offender in trust or on commission, or for administration, or under any other obligation involving the duty to make delivery or to return the same, even though such obligation be totally or partially guaranteed by a bond or by denying having received such money, goods, or other property
(37) Estafa with unfaithfulness or abuse of confidence by taking undue advantage of the signature of the offended party in blank, and by writing any document above such signature in blank, to the prejudice of the offended party or any third person.
(38) Estafa by using a fictitious name, or falsely pretending to possess power, influence, qualifications, property, credit, agency, business or imaginary transactions, or by means of other similar deceits.
(39) Estafa by altering the quality, fineness or weight of anything pertaining to his art or business.
(40) Estafa by pretending to have bribed any government employee
(41) Estafa by postdating a check or issuing a check in payment of an obligation when the offender has no funds in the bank, or his funds deposited therein were not sufficient to cover the amount of the check.
(42) Estafa by inducing another, by means of deceit, to sign any document,
(43) Estafa by resorting to some fraudulent practice to ensure success in a gambling game;
(44) Estafa by removing, concealing or destroying, in whole or in part any court record, office files, document or any other papers.

(J) Smuggling under Republic Act Nos. 455 and 1937;

(45) Fraudulent importation of any vehicle.
(46) Fraudulent exportation of any vehicle.
(47) Assisting in any fraudulent importation;
(48) Assisting in any fraudulent exportation,
(49) Receiving smuggled article after fraudulent importation.
(50) Concealing smuggled article after fraudulent importation
(51) Buying smuggled article after fraudulent importation,
(52) Selling smuggled article after fraudulent importation,
(53) Transportation of smuggled article after fraudulent importation,
(54) Fraudulent practices against customs revenue

(K) Violations under Republic Act No. 8792, otherwise known as the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000;

K.1. Hacking or cracking, which refers to:

(55) unauthorized access into or interference in a computer system/server or information and communication system, or
(56) any access in order to corrupt, alter, steal, or destroy using a computer or other similar information and communication devices, without the knowledge and consent of the owner of the computer or information and communications system, including
(57) the introduction of computer viruses and the like, resulting in the corruption, destruction, alteration, theft or loss of electronic data messages or electronic document

K.2. Piracy, which refers to:

(58) the unauthorized copying, reproduction,
(59) the unauthorized dissemination, distribution,
(60) the unauthorized importation,
(61) the unauthorized use, removal, alteration, substitution modification,
(62) the unauthorized storage, uploading, downloading, communication, making available to the public, or
(63) the unauthorized broadcasting

of protected material, electronic signature or copyrighted works including legally protected sound recordings or phonograms or information material on protected works, through the use of telecommunication networks, such as, but not limited to, the Internet, in a manner that infringes intellectual property rights.

K 3. Violations of the Consumer Act or Republic Act No. 7394 and other relevant or pertinent laws through transactions covered by or using electronic data messages or electronic documents:

(64) Sale of any consumer product that is not in conformity with standards under the Consumer Act;
(65) Sale of any product that has been banned by a rule under the Consumer Act;
(66) Sale of any adulterated or mislabeled product using electronic documents;
(67) Adulteration or misbranding of any consumer product;
(68) Forging, counterfeiting or simulating any mark, stamp, tag, label or other identification device;
(69) Revealing trade secrets;
(70) Alteration or removal of the labeling of any drug or device held for sale;
(71) Sale of any drug or device not registered in accordance with the provisions of the E-Commerce Act;
(72) Sale of any drug or device by any person not licensed in accordance with the provisions of the E-Commerce Act;
(73) Sale of any drug or device beyond its expiration date;
(74) Introduction into commerce of any mislabeled or banned hazardous substance;
(75) Alteration or removal of the labeling of a hazardous substance;
(76) Deceptive sales acts and practices;
(77) Unfair or unconscionable sales acts and practices;
(78) Fraudulent practices relative to weights and measures;
(79) False representations in advertisements as the existence of a warranty or guarantee;
(80) Violation of price tag requirements;
(81) Mislabeling consumer products;
(82) False, deceptive or misleading advertisements;
(83) Violation of required disclosures on consumer loans;
(84) Other violations of the provisions of the E-Commerce Act;

(L) Hijacking and other violations under Republic Act No. 6235; destructive arson and murder, as defined under the Revised Penal Code, as amended, including those perpetrated by terrorists against non-combatant persons and similar targets:

(85) Hijacking;
(86) Destructive arson;
(87) Murder;
(88) Hijacking, destructive arson or murder perpetrated by terrorists against non-combatant persons and similar targets;

(M) Fraudulent practices and other violations under Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code of 2000;

(89) Sale, offer or distribution of securities within the Philippines without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the SEC;

(90) Sale or offer to the public of any pre-need plan not in accordance with the rules and regulations which the SEC shall prescribe;
(91) Violation of reportorial requirements imposed upon issuers of securities;
(92) Manipulation of security prices by creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any listed security traded in an Exchange or any other trading market;
(93) Manipulation of security prices by effecting, alone or with others, a series of transactions in securities that raises their prices to induce the purchase of a security, whether of the same or different class, of the same issuer or of a controlling, controlled or commonly controlled company by others;
(94) Manipulation of security prices by effecting, alone or with others, a series of transactions in securities that depresses their price to induce the sale of a security, whether of the same or different class, of the same issuer or of a controlling, controlled or commonly controlled company by others;
(95) Manipulation of security prices by effecting, alone or with others, a series of transactions in securities that creates active trading to induce such a purchase or sale though manipulative devices such as marking the close, painting the tape, squeezing the float, hype and dump, boiler room operations and such other similar devices;
(96) Manipulation of security prices by circulating or disseminating information that the price of any security listed in an Exchange will or is likely to rise or fall because of manipulative market operations of any one or more persons conducted for the purpose of raising or depressing the price of the security for the purpose of inducing the purchase or sale of such security;
(97) Manipulation of security prices by making false or misleading statements with respect to any material fact which he knew or had reasonable ground to believe was so false and misleading, for the purpose of inducing the purchase or sale of any security listed or traded in an Exchange;
(98) Manipulation of security prices by effecting, alone or with others, any series of transactions for the purchase and/or sale of any security traded in an Exchange for the purpose of pegging, fixing or stabilizing the price of such security, unless otherwise allowed by the Securities Regulation Code or by the rules of the SEC;
(99) Sale or purchase of any security using any manipulative deceptive device or contrivance;
(100) Execution of short sales or stop-loss order in connection with the purchase or sale of any security not in accordance with such rules and regulations as the SEC may prescribe as necessary and appropriate in the public interest or the protection of the investors;
(101) Employment of any device, scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with the purchase and sale of any securities;
(102) Obtaining money or property in connection with the purchase and sale of any security by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;
(103) Engaging in any act, transaction, practice or course of action in the sale and purchase of any security which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person;
(104) Insider trading;
(105) Engaging in the business of buying and selling securities in the Philippines as a broker or dealer, or acting as a salesman, or an associated person of any broker or dealer without any registration from the Commission;
(106) Employment by a broker or dealer of any salesman or associated person or by an issuer of any salesman, not registered with the SEC;
(107) Effecting any transaction in any security, or reporting such transaction, in an Exchange or using the facility of an Exchange which is not registered with the SEC;
(108) Making use of the facility of a clearing agency which is not registered with the SEC;
(109) Violations of margin requirements;
(110) Violations on the restrictions on borrowings by members, brokers and dealers;
(111) Aiding and Abetting in any violations of the Securities Regulation Code;
(112) Hindering, obstructing or delaying the filing of any document required under the Securities Regulation Code or the rules and regulations of the SEC;
(113) Violations of any of the provisions of the implementing rules and regulations of the SEC;
(114) Any other violations of any of the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code

(N) Felonies or offenses of a similar nature to the afore-mentioned unlawful activities that are punishable under the penal laws of other countries.

In determining whether or not a felony or offense punishable under the penal laws of other countries is "of a similar nature", as to constitute the same as an unlawful activity under the AMLA, the nomenclature of said felony or offense need not be identical to any of the predicate crimes listed under Rule 3 I

RULE 4
Money Laundering Offense

Rule 4.1 Money Laundering Offense - Money laundering is a crime whereby the proceeds of an unlawful activity AS HEREIN DEFINED are transacted, thereby making them appear to have originated from legitimate sources. It is committed by the following:

(a) Any person knowing that any monetary instrument or property represents, involves, or relates to, the proceeds of any unlawful activity, transacts or attempts to transact said monetary instrument or property.

(b) Any person knowing that any monetary instrument or property involves the proceeds of any unlawful activity, performs or fails to perform any act as a result of which he facilitates the offense of money laundering referred to in paragraph (a) above.

(c) Any person knowing that any monetary instrument or property is required under the Act to be disclosed and filed with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), fails to do so.

RULE 5
Jurisdiction of Money Laundering Cases and Money Laundering Investigation Procedures

Rule 5.1. Jurisdiction of Money Laundering Cases – The Regional Trial Courts shall have the jurisdiction to try all cases on money laundering. Those committed by public officers and private persons who are in conspiracy with such public officers shall be under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan.

Rule 5.2. Investigation of Money Laundering Offenses - The AMLC shall investigate:

(a) SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS;

(b) COVERED TRANSACTIONS DEEMED SUSPICIOUS AFTER AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE AMLC;

(c) MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES; AND

(d) OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT.

Rule 5.3. Attempts at Transactions. Section 4 (a) and (b) of the AMLA provides that any person who attempts to transact any monetary instrument or property representing, involving or relating to the proceeds of any unlawful activity shall be prosecuted for a money laundering offense. Accordingly, the reports required under Rule 9.3 (a) and (b) of these Rules shall include those pertaining to any attempt by any person to transact any monetary instrument or property representing, involving or relating to the proceeds of any unlawful activity.

RULE 6
Prosecution of Money Laundering

Rule 6.1. Prosecution of Money Laundering. -

(a) Any person may be charged with and convicted of both the offense of money laundering and the unlawful activity as defined under Rule 3 (i) of the AMLA.

(b) Any proceeding relating to the unlawful activity shall be given precedence over the prosecution of any offense or violation under the AMLA without prejudice to the APPLICATION EX-PARTE by the AMLC TO THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR A FREEZE ORDER with respect to the MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY involved therein and resort to other remedies provided under the AMLA, THE RULES OF COURT AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS AND RULES.

Rule 6.2. When the AMLC finds, after investigation, that there is probable cause to charge any person with a money laundering offense under Section 4 of the AMLA, it shall cause a complaint to be filed, pursuant to Section 7 (4) of the AMLA, before the Department of Justice or the Ombudsman, which shall then conduct the preliminary investigation of the case.

Rule 6.3. After due notice and hearing in the preliminary investigation proceedings before the Department of Justice, or the Ombudsman, as the case may be, and the latter should find probable cause of a money laundering offense, it shall file the necessary information before the Regional Trial Courts or the Sandiganbayan.

Rule 6.4. Trial for the money laundering offense shall proceed in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure or the Rules of Procedure of the Sandiganbayan, as the case may be.

Rule 6.5. Knowledge of the offender that any monetary instrument or property represents, involves, or relates to the proceeds of an unlawful activity or that any monetary instrument or property is required under the AMLA to be disclosed and filed with the AMLC, may be established by direct evidence or inferred from the attendant circumstances.

Rule 6.6. All the elements of every money laundering offense under Section 4 of the AMLA must be proved by evidence beyond reasonable doubt, including the element of knowledge that the monetary instrument or property represents, involves or relates to the proceeds of any unlawful activity.

Rule 6.7. No element of the unlawful activity, however, including the identity of the perpetrators and the details of the actual commission of the unlawful activity need be established by proof beyond reasonable doubt. The elements of the offense of money laundering are separate and distinct from the elements of the felony or offense constituting the unlawful activity.

RULE 7
Creation of Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).

Rule 7.1.a. Composition. – The Anti-Money Laundering Council is hereby created and shall be composed of the Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as Chairman, the Commissioner of the Insurance Commission and the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission as members.

Rule 7.1.b. Unanimous Decision – The AMLC shall act unanimously in discharging its functions as defined in the AMLA and in these Rules. However, in the case of the incapacity, absence or disability of any members to discharge his functions, the officer duly designated or authorized to discharge the functions of the Governor of the BSP, the Chairman of the SEC or the Insurance Commissioner, as the case may be, shall act in his stead in the AMLC.

Rule 7.2. Functions. - The functions of the AMLC are defined hereunder:

(1) to require and receive covered OR SUSPICIOUS transaction reports from covered institutions;

(2) to issue orders addressed to the appropriate Supervising Authority or the covered institution to determine the true identity of the owner of any monetary instrument or property subject of a covered OR SUSPICIOUS transaction report, or request for assistance from a foreign State, or believed by the Council, on the basis of substantial evidence, to be, in whole or in part, wherever located, representing, involving, or related to, directly or indirectly, in any manner or by any means, the proceeds of an unlawful activity;

(3) to institute civil forfeiture proceedings and all other remedial proceedings through the Office of the Solicitor General;

(4) to cause the filing of complaints with the Department of Justice or the Ombudsman for the prosecution of money laundering offenses;

(5) TO INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS AND COVERED TRANSACTIONS DEEMED SUSPICIOUS AFTER AN INVESTIGATION BY THE AMLC, money laundering activities and other violations of this Act;

(6) TO APPLY BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEALS, EX-PARTE, FOR THE FREEZING OF any monetary instrument or property alleged to be proceeds of any unlawful activity AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 3 (I) HEREOF;

(7) to implement such measures as may be inherent, necessary, implied, incidental and justified under the AMLA to counteract money laundering. Subject to such limitations as provided for by law, the AMLC is authorized under Rule 7 (7) of the AMLA to establish an information sharing system that will enable the AMLC to store, track and analyze money laundering transactions for the resolute prevention, detection and investigation of money laundering offenses. For this purpose, the AMLC shall install a computerized system that will be used in the creation and maintenance of an information database;

(8) to receive and take action in respect of any request from foreign states for assistance in their own anti-money laundering operations as provided in the AMLA. The AMLC is authorized under Sections 7 (8) and 13 (b) and (d) of the AMLA to receive and take action in respect of any request of foreign states for assistance in their own anti-money laundering operations, in respect of conventions, resolutions and other directives of the United Nations (UN), the UN Security Council, and other international organizations of which the Philippines is a member. However, the AMLC may refuse to comply with any such request, convention, resolution or directive where the action sought therein contravenes the provisions of the Constitution, or the execution thereof is likely to prejudice the national interest of the Philippines;

(9) to develop educational programs on the pernicious effects of money laundering, the methods and techniques used in money laundering, the viable means of preventing money laundering and the effective ways of prosecuting and punishing offenders;

(10) to enlist the assistance of any branch, department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned and -controlled corporations, in undertaking any and all anti-money laundering operations, which may include the use of its personnel, facilities and resources for the more resolute prevention, detection and investigation of money laundering offenses and prosecution of offenders. The AMLC may require the intelligence units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Department [illegible] agencies, other [illegible] governmental or non-governmental organization or groups to divulge to the AMLC all information that may, in any way, facilitate the resolute prevention, investigation and prosecution of money laundering offenses and other violations of the AMLA;

(11) TO IMPOSE ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS FOR THE VIOLATION OF LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS ISSUED PURSUANT THERETO

Rule 7.3. Meetings. - The AMLC shall meet every first Mon[illegible] as often as may be necessary at the call of the Chairman.

RULE 8
Creation of a Secretariat

Rule 8.1. The Executive Director. – The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the AMLC for a term of five (5) years. He must be a member of the Philippine Bar, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, must have served at least five (5) years either at the BSP, the SEC or the IC and of good moral character, unquestionable integrity and known probity. He shall be considered a full-time permanent employee of the BSP with the rank of Assistant Governor, and shall be entitled to such benefits and subject to rules and regulations, as well as prohibitions, as are applicable to officers of similar rank.

Rule 8.2. Composition. – In organizing the Secretariat, the AMLC may choose from those who have served, continuously or cumulatively, for at least five (5) years in the BSP, the SEC or the IC. All members of the Secretariat shall be considered regular employees of the BSP and shall be entitled to such benefits and subject to such rules and regulations as are applicable to BSP employees of similar rank.

Rule 8.3. Detail and Secondment. – The AMLC is authorized under Section 7(10) of the AMLA to enlist the assistance of the BSP, the SEC or the IC, or any other branch, department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned and controlled corporations, in undertaking any and all anti-money laundering operations. This includes the use of any member of their personnel who may be detailed or seconded to the AMLC, subject to existing laws and Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Detailed personnel shall continue to receive their salaries, benefits and emoluments from their respective mother units. Seconded personnel shall receive, in lieu of their respective compensation packages from their respective mother units, the salaries, emoluments and all other benefits to which their AMLC Secretariat positions are entitled to.

Rule 8.4. Confidentiality Provisions. - The members of the AMLC, the Executive Director, and all the members of the Secretariat, whether permanent, on detail or on secondment, shall not reveal, in any manner, any information known to them by reason of their office. This prohibition shall apply even after their separation from the AMLC. In case of violation of this provision, the person shall be punished in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Central Bank Act.

RULE 9
Prevention of Money Laundering;
Customer Identification Requirements and Record Keeping.

Rule 9.1. Customer Identification Requirements.

Rule 9.1.a. Customer Identification - Covered institutions shall establish and record the true identity of its clients based on official documents. They shall maintain a system of verifying the true identity of their clients and, in case of corporate clients, require a system of verifying their legal existence and organizational structure, as well as the authority and identification of all persons purporting to act on their behalf. Covered institutions shall establish appropriate systems and methods based on internationally compliant standards and adequate internal controls for verifying and recording the true and full identity of their customers.

Rule 9.1.b. Trustee, Nominee and Agent Accounts. - When dealing with customers who are acting as trustee, nominee, agent or in any capacity for and on behalf of another, covered institutions shall verify and record the true and full identity of the person(s) on whose behalf a transaction is being conducted. Covered institutions shall also establish and record the true and full identity of such trustees, nominees, agents and other persons and the nature of their capacity and duties. In case a covered institution has doubts as to whether such persons are being used as dummies in circumvention of existing laws, it shall immediately make the necessary inquiries to verify the status of the business relationship between the parties.

Rule 9.1.c. Minimum Information/Documents Required for Individual Customers. - Covered institutions shall require customers to produce original documents of identity issued by an official authority, bearing a photograph of the customer. Examples of such documents are identity cards and passports. The following minimum information/documents shall be obtained from individual customers:

(1) Name;
(2) Present address;
(3) Permanent address;
(4) Date and place of birth;
(5) Nationality;
(6) Nature of work and name of employer or nature of self-employment/business;
(7) Contact numbers;
(8) Tax identification number, Social Security System number or Government Service and Insurance System number;
(9) Specimen signature;
(10) Source of fund(s); and
(11) Names of beneficiaries in case of insurance contracts and whenever applicable.

Rule 9.1.d. Minimum Information/Documents Required for Corporate and Juridical Entities. Before establishing business relationships, covered institutions shall endeavor to ensure that the customer is a corporate or juridical entity which has not been or is not in the process of being, dissolved, wound up or voided, or that its business or operations has not been or is not in the process of being, closed, shut down, phased out, or terminated. Dealings with shell companies and corporations, being legal entities which have no business substance in their own right but through which financial transactions may be conducted, should be undertaken with extreme caution. The following minimum information/documents shall be obtained from customers that are corporate or juridical entities, including shell companies and corporations:

(1) Articles of Incorporation/Partnership;
(2) By-laws;
(3) Official address or principal business address;
(4) List of directors/partners;
(5) List of principal stockholders owning at least two percent (2%) of the capital stock;
(6) Contact numbers;
(7) Beneficial owners, if any; and
(8) Verification of the authority and identification of the person purporting to act on behalf of the client.

Rule 9.1.e. Prohibition against Certain Accounts. Covered institutions shall maintain accounts only in the true and full name of the account owner or holder. The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, anonymous accounts, accounts under fictitious names, and all other similar accounts shall be absolutely prohibited.

Rule 9.1.f. Prohibition against opening of Accounts without Face-to-face Contact. - No new accounts shall be opened and created without face-to-face contact and full compliance with the requirements under Rule 9.1.c of these Rules.

Rule 9.1.g. Numbered Accounts. - Peso and foreign currency non-checking numbered accounts shall be allowed: *Provided*, That the true identity of the customers of all peso and foreign currency non-checking numbered accounts are satisfactorily established based on official and other reliable documents and records, and that the information and documents required under the provisions of these Rules are obtained and recorded by the covered institution. No peso and foreign currency non-checking accounts shall be allowed without the establishment of such identity and in the manner herein provided. The BSP may conduct annual testing for the purpose of determining the existence and true identity of the owners of such accounts. The SEC and the IC may conduct similar testing more often than once a year and covering such other related purposes as may be allowed under their respective charters.

Rule 9.2. Record Keeping Requirements

Rule 9.2.a. Record Keeping: Kinds of Records and Period for Retention. – All records of all transactions of covered institutions shall be maintained and safely stored for five (5) years from the dates of transactions. Said records and files shall contain the full and true identity of the owners or holders of the accounts involved in the covered transactions and all other customer identification documents. Covered institutions shall undertake the necessary adequate security measures to ensure the confidentiality of such file. Covered institutions shall prepare and maintain documentation, in accordance with the aforementioned client identification requirements, on their customer accounts, relationships and transactions such that any account, relationship or transaction can be so reconstructed as to enable the AMLC and/or the courts to establish an audit trail for money laundering.

Rule 9.2.b. Existing and New Accounts and New Transactions. - All records of existing and new accounts and of new transactions shall be maintained and safely stored for five (5) years from October 17, 2001 or from the dates of the accounts or transactions, whichever is later.

Rule 9.2.c. Closed Accounts. With respect to [illegible] records on customer identification, account files and business [illegible] shall be preserved and safely stored for at least five (5) yea[illegible] when they were closed.

Rule 9.2.d. Retention of Records in Case a Money Laundering Case has been Filed in Court. – If a money laundering case based on any record kept by the covered institution concerned has been filed in court, said file must be retained beyond the period stipulated in the three (3) immediately preceding sub-Rules, as the case may be, until it is confirmed that the case has been finally resolved or terminated by the court.

Rule 9.2.e. Form of Records. – Records sha[illegible] such forms as are admissible in court pursuant [illegible] applicable rules promulgated by the Supreme Court.

Rule 9.3. Reporting of Covered Transactions

Rule 9.3.a. Period of Reporting Covered [illegible] and Suspicious Transactions - COVERED INSTITUTIONS [illegible] REPORT TO THE AMLC ALL COVERED TRANSACTIONS AND [illegible]SPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS WITHIN FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS FROM [illegible] THEREOF, UNLESS THE SUPERVISING AUTHORI[illegible] PRESCRIBES A LONGER PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING [illegible] DAYS.

SHOULD A TRANSACTION BE DETERMINED TO BE BOTH A COVERED AND A SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION, THE COVERED INSTITUTION SHALL REPORT THE SAME AS A SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION.

THE REPORTING OF COVERED TRANSACTIONS BY COVERED INSTITUTIONS SHALL BE DEFERRED FOR A PERIOD OF SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194, OR AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE AMLC, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE COVERED INSTITUTIONS TO CONFIGURE THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPUTER SYSTEMS; PROVIDED THAT, ALL COVERED TRANSACTIONS DURING SAID DEFERMENT PERIOD SHALL BE SUBMITTED THEREAFTER.

Rule 9.3.b. Covered AND SUSPICIOUS Transaction Report Forms. - The Covered Transaction Report (CTR) AND THE SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION REPORT (STR) [illegible] the forms pr[illegible] by the AMLC.

Rule 9.3.b.1. COVERED INSTITUTIONS SHALL USE THE EXISTING FORMS FOR COVERED TRANSACTION REPORTS AND SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION REPORTS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE AMLC HAS ISSUED NEW SETS OF FORMS.

[illegible] TRANSACTION REPORTS AND [illegible] REPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN A SECURED MANNER TO THE AMLC IN ELECTRONIC FORM, EITHER VIA DISKETTES, LEASED LINES, OR THROUGH INTERNET FACILITIES, WITH THE CORRESPONDING HARD COPY FOR SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS. [illegible] FINAL FLOW AND PROCEDURES FOR SUCH REPORTING [illegible] BE MAPPED OUT IN THE MANUAL OF OPERATIONS [illegible] BY THE AMLC.

Rule 9.3.c Exemption [illegible] Secrecy Laws. When reporting [illegible] OR SUSPICIOUS [illegible] AMLC, covered institutions and [illegible] deemed to have violated R.A. No. [illegible] amended, R.A. No. 8791 and other similar laws, [illegible] directly or indirectly, in any manner or by any [illegible] that a covered or suspicious transaction report was made [illegible] any other information in relation thereto. In case of [illegible] concerned officer and employee of the covered institution [illegible]

Rule 9.3.d. Confidentiality Provisions. – When reporting covered transactions or suspicious transactions to the AMLC, covered institutions and their officers and employees, are prohibited from communicating, directly or indirectly, in any manner or by any means, to any person, entity, the media, the fact that a covered or suspicious transaction report was made, the contents thereof, or any other information in relation thereto. Neither may such reporting be published or aired in any manner or form by the mass media, electronic mail, or other similar devices. In case of violation thereof, the concerned officer, and employee, of the covered institution, or media shall be held criminally liable.

Rule 9.3.e. Safe Harbor Provisions. - No administrative, criminal or civil proceedings, shall lie against any person for having made a covered transaction report OR A SUSPICIOUS transaction report in the regular performance of his duties and in good faith, whether or not such reporting results in any criminal prosecution under this Act or any other Philippine law.

RULE 10
APPLICATION FOR FREEZE ORDERS

Rule 10.1. WHEN THE AMLC MAY APPLY FOR THE FREEZING OF ANY MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY. -

(a) AFTER AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE AMLC AND UPON DETERMINATION THAT PROBABLE CAUSE EXISTS THAT A MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY IS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO ANY UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 3 (i), THE AMLC MAY FILE AN EX-PARTE APPLICATION BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A FREEZE ORDER ON ANY MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY subject thereof prior to the institution or in the course of the criminal proceedings involving the unlawful activity to which said MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY is any way related.

(b) Considering the intricate and diverse web of related and interlocking accounts PERTAINING TO THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT(S) OR PROPERTY(IES) that any person may create in the different covered institutions, their branches and/or other units, the AMLC may APPLY TO THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FREEZING, NOT ONLY OF THE MONETARY INSTRUMENTS OR PROPERTIES IN THE NAMES OF THE REPORTED -OWNER(S)/HOLDER(S), AND MONETARY INSTRUMENTS OR PROPERTIES NAMED IN THE APPLICATION OF THE AMLC BUT ALSO ALL OTHER RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS PERTAINING TO OTHER MONETARY INSTRUMENTS AND PROPERTIES, THE FUNDS AND SOURCES OF WHICH ORIGINATED FROM OR ARE RELATED TO, THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT(S) OR PROPERTY(IES) SUBJECT OF THE FREEZE ORDER(S).

(c) THE FREEZE ORDER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE FOR TWENTY (20) DAYS UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS UPON APPLICATION BY THE AMLC.

Rule 10.2. Definition of Probable Cause. - Probable cause includes such facts and circumstances which would lead a reasonably discreet, prudent or cautious man to believe that an unlawful activity and/or a money laundering offense is about to be, is being or has been committed and that the account or any monetary instrument or property subject thereof sought to be frozen is in any way related to said unlawful activity and/or money laundering offense.

Rule 10.3. DUTY OF COVERED INSTITUTION UPON RECEIPT THEREOF

Rule 10.3.a. Upon receipt of the notice of the freeze order, the covered institution concerned shall immediately freeze the monetary instrument or property AND RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS subject thereof.

Rule 10.3.b. THE COVERED INSTITUTION SHALL LIKEWISE IMMEDIATELY FURNISH A COPY OF THE NOTICE OF THE FREEZE ORDER UPON THE OWNER OR HOLDER OF THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY OR RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS SUBJECT THEREOF.

Rule 10.3.c. Within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the freeze order, the covered institution concerned shall submit to the COURT OF APPEALS AND THE AMLC, by personal delivery, a detailed written return on the freeze order, specifying ALL THE PERTINENT AND RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE ACCOUNT NUMBER(S);
2. THE NAME(S) OF THE ACCOUNT OWNER(S) OR HOLDER(S);
3. THE AMOUNT OF THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT, PROPERTY OR RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS AS OF THE TIME THEY WERE FROZEN;
4. ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION AS TO THE NATURE OF THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY;
5. ANY INFORMATION ON THE RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS PERTAINING TO THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY SUBJECT OF THE FREEZE ORDER; AND

- THE TIME WHEN THE FREEZE THEREON TOOK EFFECT.

Rule 10.4 DEFINITION OF RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS.

"RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS PERTAINING TO THE MONEY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY SUBJECT OF THE FREEZE ORDER" IS DEFINED AS THOSE ACCOUNTS, THE FUNDS AND SOURCES OF WHICH ORIGINATED FROM AND/OR ARE MATERIALLY LINKED TO THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT(S) OR PROPERTY(IES) SUBJECT OF THE FREEZE ORDER(S).

UPON RECEIPT OF THE FREEZE ORDER ISSUED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS AND UPON VERIFICATION BY THE COVERED INSTITUTION THAT THE RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS ORIGINATED FROM AND/OR ARE MATERIALLY LINKED TO THE MONETARY INSTRUMENT OR PROPERTY SUBJECT OF THE FREEZE ORDER, THE COVERED INSTITUTION SHALL FREEZE THESE RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS WHEREVER THESE FUNDS MAY BE FOUND.

THE RETURN OF THE COVERED INSTITUTION AS REQUIRED UNDER RULE 10.3.c SHALL INCLUDE THE FACT OF SUCH FREEZING AND AN EXPLANATION AS TO THE GROUNDS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELATED WEB OF ACCOUNTS.

Rule 10.5. Extension of the Freeze Order. - BEFORE THE TWENTY (20) DAY PERIOD OF THE FREEZE ORDER ISSUED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS EXPIRES, THE AMLC MAY APPLY IN THE SAME COURT FOR AN EXTENSION OF SAID PERIOD. UPON THE TIMELY FILING OF SUCH APPLICATION AND PENDING THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS TO EXTEND THE PERIOD, SAID PERIOD SHALL BE DEEMED SUSPENDED AND THE FREEZE ORDER SHALL REMAIN EFFECTIVE.

HOWEVER, THE COVERED INSTITUTION SHALL NOT LIFT THE EFFECTS OF THE FREEZE ORDER WITHOUT SECURING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM THE AMLC.

Rule 10.6. Prohibition against Issuance of Freeze Orders against candidates for an electoral office during election period – No assets shall be frozen to the prejudice of a candidate for an electoral office during an election period.

RULE 11.
Authority to Inquire into Bank Deposits.

Rule 11.1. Authority to Inquire into Bank Deposits WITH COURT ORDER. - Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 1405, as amended; Republic Act No. 6426, as amended, Republic Act No. 8791, and other laws, the AMLC may inquire into or examine any particular deposit or investment with any banking institution or non-bank financial institution AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES upon order of any competent court in cases of violation of this Act, when it has been established that there is probable cause that the deposits or investments involved are related to AN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 (i) HEREOF OR *a money laundering offense* UNDER SECTION 4 HEREOF; EXCEPT IN CASES AS PROVIDED UNDER RULE 11.2.

Rule 11.2. Authority to Inquire into Bank Deposits WITHOUT COURT ORDER – The AMLC MAY INQUIRE INTO OR EXAMINE DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS WITH ANY BANKING INSTITUTION OR NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES WITHOUT A COURT ORDER WHERE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES ARE INVOLVED:

(a) Kidnapping for ransom under Article 267 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, as amended.

(b) Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 AND 16 of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the COMPREHENSIVE Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

(c) Hijacking and other violations under Republic Act No. 6235, destructive arson and murder, as defined under the Revised Penal Code, as amended, including those perpetrated by terrorists against non-combatant persons and similar targets.

Rule 11.2.a. PROCEDURE FOR EXAMINATION WITHOUT A COURT ORDER - WHERE ANY OF THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES ENUMERATED UNDER THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING RULE 11.2 ARE INVOLVED, AND THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE THAT THE DEPOSITS OR INVESTMENTS WITH ANY BANKING OR NON-BANKING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES ARE IN ANYWAY RELATED TO THESE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES, THE AMLC SHALL ISSUE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INQUIRY INTO OR EXAMINATION OF ANY DEPOSIT OR INVESTMENT WITH SUCH BANKING OR, NON-BANKING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES CONCERNED.

Rule 11.2.b. DUTY OF THE BANKING INSTITUTION OR NON-BANKING INSTITUTION UPON RECEIPT OF THE AMLC RESOLUTION. - THE BANKING INSTITUTION OR THE NON-BANKING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES SHALL, IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THE AMLC RESOLUTION, ALLOW THE AMLC AND/OR ITS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S) FULL ACCESS TO ALL RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE DEPOSIT OR INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

Rule 11.3. - BSP Authority to Examine deposits and Investments; Additional Exception to the Bank Secrecy Act. - TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ACT, THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) MAY INQUIRE INTO OR EXAMINE ANY PARTICULAR DEPOSIT OR INVESTMENT WITH ANY BANKING INSTITUTION OR NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES WHEN THE EXAMINATION IS MADE IN THE COURSE OF A PERIODIC OR SPECIAL EXAMINATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF EXAMINATION OF THE BSP.

Rule 11.3.a. BSP Rules of Examination. - THE BSP SHALL PROMULGATE ITS RULES OF EXAMINATION FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE BY BANKS AND NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES WITH THE AMLA AND THESE RULES.

ANY FINDINGS OF THE BSP WHICH MAY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE AMLC FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

RULE 12
Forfeiture Provisions

Rule 12.1. Authority to Institute Civil Forfeiture Proceedings. - The AMLC is authorized under Section 7 (3) of the AMLA to institute civil forfeiture proceedings and all other remedial proceedings through the Office of the Solicitor General.

Rule 12.2. When Civil Forfeiture May be Applied. – When there is a SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION REPORT OR A COVERED TRANSACTION REPORT DEEMED SUSPICIOUS AFTER INVESTIGATION BY THE AMLC, and the court has, in a petition filed for the purpose, ordered the seizure of any monetary instrument or property, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, related to said report, the Revised Rules of Court on civil forfeiture shall apply.

Rule 12.3. Claim on Forfeited Assets. - Where the court has issued an order of forfeiture of the monetary instrument or property in a criminal prosecution for any money laundering offense under Section 4 of the AMLA, the offender or any other person claiming an interest therein may apply, by verified petition, for a declaration that the same legitimately belongs to him, and for segregation or exclusion of the monetary instrument or property corresponding thereto. The verified petition shall be filed with the court which rendered the judgment of conviction and order of forfeiture within fifteen (15) days from the date of the order of forfeiture, in default of which the said order shall become final and executory. This provision shall apply in both civil and criminal forfeiture.

Rule 12.4. Payment in lieu of Forfeiture. - Where the court has issued an order of forfeiture of the monetary instrument or property subject of a money laundering offense under Section 4 of the AMLA, and said order cannot be enforced because any particular monetary instrument or property cannot, with due diligence, be located, or it has been substantially altered, destroyed, diminished in value or otherwise rendered worthless by any act or omission, directly or indirectly, attributable to the offender, or it has been concealed, removed, converted or otherwise transferred to prevent the same from being found or to avoid forfeiture thereof, or it is located outside the Philippines or has been placed or brought outside the jurisdiction of the court, or it has been commingled with other monetary instruments or property belonging to either the offender himself or a third person or entity, thereby rendering the same difficult to identify or be segregated for purposes of forfeiture, the court may, instead of enforcing the order of forfeiture of the monetary instrument or property or part thereof or interest therein, accordingly order the convicted offender to pay an amount equal to the value of said monetary instrument or property. This provision shall apply in both civil and criminal forfeiture.

RULE 13.
Mutual Assistance among States

Rule 13.1. Request for Assistance from a Foreign State. -- Where a foreign state makes a request for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of a money laundering offense, the AMLC may execute the request or refuse to execute the same and inform the foreign state of any valid reason for not executing the request or for delaying the execution thereof. The principles of mutuality and reciprocity shall, for this purpose, be at all times recognized.

Rule 13.2. Powers of the AMLC to Act on a Request for Assistance from a Foreign State. - The AMLC may execute a request for assistance from a foreign state by (1) tracking down, freezing, restraining and seizing assets alleged to be proceeds of any unlawful activity under the procedures laid down in the AMLA and in these Rules, (2) giving information needed by the foreign state within the procedures laid down in the AMLA and in these Rules, and (3) applying for an order of forfeiture of any monetary instrument or property in the court: *Provided*, That the court shall not issue such an order unless the application is accompanied by an authenticated copy of the order of a court in the requesting state ordering the forfeiture of said monetary instrument or property of a person who has been convicted of a money laundering offense in the requesting state, and a certification or an affidavit of a competent officer of the requesting state stating that the conviction and the order of forfeiture are final and that no further appeal lies in respect of either.

Rule 13.3. Obtaining Assistance from Foreign States. - The AMLC may make a request to any foreign state for assistance in (1) tracking down, freezing, restraining and seizing assets alleged to be proceeds of any unlawful activity, (2) obtaining information that it needs relating to any covered transaction, money laundering offense or any other matter directly or indirectly related thereto, (3) to the extent allowed by the law of the foreign state, applying with the proper court therein for an order to enter any premises belonging to or in the possession or control of, any or all of the persons named in said request, and/or search any or all such persons named therein and/or remove any document, material or object named in said request: *Provided*, That the documents accompanying the request in support of the application have been duly authenticated in accordance with the applicable law or regulation of the foreign state, and (4) applying for an order of forfeiture of any monetary instrument or property in the proper court in the foreign state: *Provided*, That the request is accompanied by an authenticated copy of the order of the Regional Trial Court ordering the forfeiture of said monetary instrument or property of a convicted offender and an affidavit of the clerk of court stating that the conviction and the order of forfeiture are final and that no further appeal lies in respect of either.

Rule 13.4. Limitations on Requests for Mutual Assistance. - The AMLC may refuse to comply with any request for assistance where the action sought by the request contravenes any provision of the Constitution or the execution of a request is likely to prejudice the national interest of the Philippines, unless there is a treaty between the Philippines and the requesting state relating to the provision of assistance in relation to money laundering offenses.

Rule 13.5. Requirements for Requests for Mutual Assistance from Foreign States. - A request for mutual assistance from a foreign state must (1) confirm that an investigation or prosecution is being conducted in respect of a money launderer named therein or that he has been convicted of any money laundering offense; (2) state the grounds on which any person is being investigated or prosecuted for money laundering or the details of his conviction, (3) give sufficient particulars as to the identity of said person, (4) give particulars sufficient to identify any covered institution believed to have any information, document, material or object which may be of assistance to the investigation or prosecution, (5) ask from the covered institution concerned any information, document, material or object which may be of assistance to the investigation or prosecution, (6) specify the manner in which and to whom said information, document, material or object obtained pursuant to said request, is to be produced, (7) give all the particulars necessary for the issuance by the court in the requested state of the writs, orders or processes needed by the requesting state, and (8) contain such other information as may assist in the execution of the request.

Rule 13.6. Authentication of Documents. - For purposes of Section 13 (f) of the AMLA and Section 7 of the AMLA, a document is authenticated if the same is signed or certified by a judge, magistrate or equivalent officer in or of, the requesting state, and authenticated by the oath or affirmation of a witness or sealed with an official or public seal of a minister, secretary of state, or officer in or of, the government of the requesting state, or of the person administering the government or a department of the requesting territory, protectorate or colony. The certificate of authentication may also be made by a secretary of the embassy or legation, consul general, consul, vice consul, consular agent or any officer in the foreign service of the Philippines stationed in the foreign state in which the record is kept, and authenticated by the seal of his office.

Rule 13.7. Suppletory Application of the Revised Rules of Court. –

Rule 13.7.1. For attachment of Philippine properties in the name of persons convicted of any unlawful activity as defined in Section 3 (i) of the AMLA, execution and satisfaction of final judgments of forfeiture, application for examination of witnesses, procuring search warrants, production of bank documents and other materials and all other actions not specified in the AMLA and these Rules, and assistance for any of the aforementioned actions, which is subject of a request by a foreign state, resort may be had to the proceedings pertinent thereto under the Revised Rules of Court.

Rule 13.7.2. Authority to Assist the United Nations and other International Organizations and Foreign States. – The AMLC is authorized under Section 7 (8) and 13 (b) and (d) of the AMLA to receive and take action in respect of any request of foreign states for assistance in their own anti-money laundering operations. It is also authorized under Section 7 (7) of the AMLA to cooperate with the National Government and/or take appropriate action in respect of conventions, resolutions and other directives of the United Nations (UN), the UN Security Council, and other international organizations of which the Philippines is a member. However, the AMLC may refuse to comply with any such request, convention, resolution or directive where the action sought therein contravenes the provision of the Constitution or the execution thereof is likely to prejudice the national interest of the Philippines.

Rule 13.8. Extradition. – The Philippines shall negotiate for the inclusion of money laundering offenses as defined under Section 4 of the AMLA among the extraditable offenses in all future treaties. With respect, however, to the state parties that are signatories to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime that was ratified by the Philippine Senate on October 22, 2001, money laundering is deemed to be included as an extraditable offense in any extradition treaty existing between said state parties, and the Philippines shall include money laundering as an extraditable offense in every extradition treaty that may be concluded between the Philippines and any of said state parties in the future.

RULE 14
Penal Provisions

Rule 14.1. Penalties for the Crime of Money Laundering.

Rule 14.1.a. Penalties under Section 4 (a) of the AMLA. - The penalty of imprisonment ranging from seven (7) to fourteen (14) years and a fine of not less than Three Million Philippine Pesos (Php3,000,000.00) but not more than twice the value of the monetary instrument or property involved in the offense, shall be imposed upon a person convicted under Section 4 (a) of the AMLA.

Rule 14.1.b. Penalties under Section 4 (b) of the AMLA. - The penalty of imprisonment from four (4) to seven (7) years and a fine of not less than One Million Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php1,500,000.00) but not more than Three Million Philippine Pesos (Php3,000,000.00), shall be imposed upon a person convicted under Section 4 (b) of the AMLA.

Rule 14.1.c. Penalties under Section 4 (c) of the AMLA. - The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) months to four (4) years or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php500,000.00), or both, shall be imposed on a person convicted under Section 4(c) of the AMLA.

Rule 14.1.d. Administrative Sanctions. – (1) AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, THE AMLC SHALL, AT ITS DISCRETION, IMPOSE FINES UPON ANY COVERED INSTITUTION, ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, OR ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194 AND RULES, REGULATIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS ISSUED PURSUANT THERETO. THE FINES SHALL BE IN AMOUNTS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ALL THE ATTENDANT CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS THE NATURE AND GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATION OR IRREGULARITY, BUT IN NO CASE SHALL SUCH FINES BE LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP100,000.00) BUT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP500,000.00). THE IMPOSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATIONS.

Rule 14.2. Penalties for Failure to Keep Records - The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) months to one (1) year or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php500,000.00), or both, shall be imposed on a person convicted under Section 9 (b) of the AMLA.

Rule 14.3. Penalties for Malicious Reporting - Any person who, with malice, or in bad faith, reports or files a completely unwarranted or false information relative to money laundering transaction against any person shall be subject to a penalty of six (6) months to four (4) years imprisonment and a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php100, 000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php500, 000.00), at the discretion of the court. *Provided*, That the offender is not entitled to avail the benefits of the Probation Law.

Rule 14.4. Where Offender is a Juridical Person - If the offender is a corporation, association, partnership or any juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible officers, as the case may be, who participated in, or ALLOWED BY THEIR GROSS NEGLIGENCE the commission of the crime. If the offender is a juridical person, the court may suspend or revoke its license. If the offender is an alien, he shall, in addition to the penalties herein prescribed, be deported without further proceedings after serving the penalties herein prescribed. If the offender is a public official or employee, he shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed herein, suffer perpetual or temporary absolute disqualification from office, as the case may be.

Rule 14.5. Refusal by a Public Official or Employee to Testify – Any public official or employee who is called upon to testify and refuses to do the same or purposely fails to testify shall suffer the same penalties prescribed herein.

Rule 14.6. Penalties for Breach of Confidentiality. – The punishment of imprisonment ranging from three (3) to eight (8) years and a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php500,000.00) but not more than One Million Philippine Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) shall be imposed on a person convicted for a violation under Section 9(c). IN CASE OF A BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY THAT IS PUBLISHED OR REPORTED BY MEDIA, THE RESPONSIBLE REPORTER, WRITER, PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER, MANAGER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SHALL BE LIABLE UNDER THIS ACT.

RULE 15
Prohibitions Against Political Harassment

Rule 15.1. Prohibition against Political Persecution. – The AMLA and these Rules shall not be used for political persecution or harassment or as an instrument to hamper competition in trade and commerce. No case for money laundering may be filed to the prejudice of a candidate for an electoral office during an election period.

Rule 15.2. Provisional Remedies Application; Exception. -

Rule 15.2.a. - The AMLC may apply, in the course of the criminal proceedings, for provisional remedies to prevent the monetary instrument or property subject thereof from being removed, concealed, converted, commingled with other property or otherwise to prevent its being found or taken by the applicant or otherwise placed or taken beyond the jurisdiction of the court. However, no assets shall be attached to the prejudice of a candidate for an electoral office during an election period.

Rule 15.2.b. Where there is conviction for money laundering under Section 4 of the AMLA, the court shall issue a judgment of forfeiture in favor of the Government of the Philippines with respect to the monetary instrument or property found to be proceeds of one or more unlawful activities. However, no assets shall be forfeited to the prejudice of a candidate for an electoral office during an election period.

RULE 16
Restitution

Rule 16. Restitution. - Restitution for any aggrieved party shall be governed by the provisions of the New Civil Code.

RULE 17
Implementing Rules and Regulations and Money Laundering Prevention Programs

Rule 17.1. Implementing Rules and Regulations. –

(a) Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, as amended by REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Insurance Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the AMLA, which shall be submitted to the Congressional Oversight Committee for approval.

(b) The Supervising Authorities, the BSP, the SEC and the IC shall, under their own respective charters and regulatory authority, issue their Guidelines and Circulars on anti-money laundering to effectively implement the provisions of REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194.

Rule 17.2. Money Laundering Prevention Programs. –

Rule 17.2.a. Covered institutions shall formulate their respective money laundering prevention programs in accordance with Section 9 and other pertinent provisions of the AMLA and these Rules, including, but not limited to, information dissemination on money laundering activities and their prevention, detection and reporting, and the training of responsible officers and personnel of covered institutions, subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by their respective supervising authority. Every covered institution shall submit its own money laundering program to the supervising authority concerned within the non-extendible period that the supervising authority has imposed in the exercise of its regulatory powers under its own charter.

Rule 17.2.b. Every money laundering program shall establish detailed procedures implementing a comprehensive, institution-wide "know-your-client" policy, set-up an effective dissemination of information on money laundering activities and their prevention, detection and reporting, adopt internal policies, procedures and controls, designate compliance officers at management level, institute adequate screening and recruitment procedures and set-up an audit function to test the system.

Rule 17.2.c. Covered institutions shall adopt, as part of their money laundering programs, a system of flagging and monitoring transactions that qualify as suspicious transactions, regardless of amount or covered transactions involving amounts below the threshold to facilitate the process of aggregating them for purposes of future reporting of such transactions to the AMLC when their aggregated amounts breach the threshold. All covered institutions, including banks insofar as non-deposit and non-government bond investment transactions are concerned, shall incorporate in their money laundering programs the provisions of these Rules and such other guidelines for reporting to the AMLC of all transactions that engender the reasonable belief that a money laundering offense is about to be, is being, or has been committed.

Rule 17.3. Training of Personnel. - Covered institutions shall provide all their responsible officers and personnel with efficient and effective training and continuing education programs to enable them to fully comply with all their obligations under the AMLA and these Rules.

Rule 17.4. Amendments. - These Rules or any portion thereof may be amended by unanimous vote of the members of the AMLC and submitted to the Congressional Oversight Committee as provided for under Section 19 of REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, as amended BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194.

RULE 18
Congressional Oversight Committee

Rule 18.1. Composition of Congressional Oversight Committee. - There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of seven (7) members from the Senate and seven (7) members from the House of Representatives. The members from the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate President based on the proportional representation of the parties or coalitions therein with at least two (2) Senators representing the minority. The members from the House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker also based on proportional representation of the parties or coalitions therein with at least two (2) members representing the minority.

Rule 18.2. Powers of the Congressional Oversight Committee. - The Oversight Committee shall have the power to promulgate its own rules, to oversee the implementation of this Act, and to review or revise the implementing rules issued by the Anti-Money Laundering Council within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of the said rules.

Rule 19
Appropriations For and Budget of the AMLC

Rule 19.1. Budget. – The budget of Php25,000,000.00 appropriated by Congress under the AMLA shall be used to defray the initial operational expenses of the AMLC. Appropriations for succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The BSP shall advance the funds necessary to defray the capital outlay, maintenance and other operating expenses and personnel services of the AMLC subject to reimbursement from the budget of the AMLC as appropriated under the AMLA and subsequent appropriations.

Rule 19.2. Costs and Expenses. - The budget shall answer for indemnification for legal costs and expenses reasonably incurred for the services of external counsel in connection with any civil, criminal or administrative action, suit or proceedings to which members of the AMLC and the Executive Director and other members of the Secretariat may be made a party by reason of the performance of their functions or duties. The costs and expenses incurred in defending the aforementioned action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the AMLC in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the member to repay the amount advanced should it be ultimately determined that said member is not entitled to such indemnification.

RULE 20
Separability Clause

Rule 20. Separability Clause. – If any provision of these Rules or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the other provisions of these Rules, and the application of such provision or Rule to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

RULE 21
Repealing Clause

Rule 21. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, including the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 1405, as amended, Republic Act No. 6426, as amended, Republic Act No. 8791, as amended, and other similar laws, as are inconsistent with the AMLA, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

RULE 22
Effectivity of The Rules

Rule 22.1. Effectivity. – These Rules shall take effect after approval by the Congressional Oversight Committee and fifteen (15) days after complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

RULE 23
Transitory Provisions

Rule 23.1. – Transitory Provisions. - EXISTING FREEZE ORDERS ISSUED BY THE AMLC SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS.

Rule 23.2. – EFFECT OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9194 ON CASES FOR EXTENSION OF FREEZE ORDERS RESOLVED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS. – ALL EXISTING FREEZE ORDERS WHICH THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS EXTENDED SHALL REMAIN EFFECTIVE, UNLESS OTHERWISE DISSOLVED BY THE SAME COURT.

APPROVED, this 6th day of August, 2003 in the City of Manila.

BY THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

SENATE PANEL:	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PANEL:
HON. RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR. Chairman	HON. JAIME C. LOPEZ Chairman

HON. FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN Member	HON. OSCAR S. MORENO Member
HON. RENATO L. CAYETANO Member	HON. MARCELINO C. LIBANAN Member
HON. ROBERT Z. BARBERS Member	HON. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR. Member
HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III Member	HON. JOSE CARLOS V. LACSON Member
HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA Member	HON. CELSO L. LOBREGAT Member w/ dissent on provisions re: related web of accounts Rule 10
HON. SERGIO R. OSMENA III Member	HON. DIDAGEN P. DILANGALEN Member Dissenting on provisions rel. to to related web of accounts Rule 10.

ADVT

Gringo in INC safehouse

From page A1

the coffee shop is located has several security features, including a driveway that leads to a backyard parking lot and a backdoor entrance leading to the front desk and the restaurant.

The parking lot has space for five to seven cars, and more space for motorcycles. Honasan is a known motorcycle buff.

Independent sources said the PGBI has an estimated membership of 20,000 in the Cagayan Valley. Among its members are policemen and soldiers both active and retired; and civilians both in the private and government sector.

Sources said Honasan also met with Guardians in Baguio City in late July, where he was assured of "all-out support" by the fraternity members in Northern Luzon.

He was in Region 2 in the Cagayan Valley to visit the Guardians who had prepared a manifesto of support for their "supreme commander."

Police officials here, however, said they didn't know if Honasan was in Cagayan Valley or not.

"And if he were here, what can we do? We cannot arrest him. There is no warrant of arrest," said Supt. Napoleon Estilles, Philippine National Police chief for intelligence for Region 2.

Acting regional director Senior Supt. Melecio Asis admitted there were "reports" but said these were never confirmed.

Asis said there were reports that the PGBI wanted to "move" in support of the Oakwood mutineers. He said they were also worried that the Philippine Marines unit based in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, would join the rebels in Manila.

"We set up checkpoints at Dalton Pass to prevent any troop movement," Asis said. Dalton Pass is a highland highway linking Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya.

Gringo look-alikes

A policeman, however, said that on several occasions, the police heard about Honasan being seen in the area, but "Honasan" turned out to be "these employees from the Cagayan State University (CSU)" who look like the senator.

Henry Balisi, an assistant instructor in animal science, said he was once stopped at a checkpoint, and the policeman manning the post suddenly saluted him.

"He said, 'Colonel Honasan, sir, sorry po,'" Balisi said in an interview at the CSU campus in Lallo, Cagayan, about 50 kilometers from here.

Lallo is part of the first congressional district of Cagayan, which is represented in Congress by Jackie Ponce Enrile, son of Honasan's patron, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Balisi, 62, said he had worked in the Middle East and had just arrived when the incident took place. He said he was "fatter and fairer then ... and I had to explain that I was not Honasan."

CSU supply officer Tadeo Castillejo said he has also been mistaken for Honasan, but he

WAS IT "Gringo" or his Cagayano lookalikes? Honasan was reportedly seen in a hotel coffee shop in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, on Sunday but this could not be confirmed as two men in the province reportedly resemble him. PDI FILE

said he was not sure if he should be flattered or scared by the supposed resemblance.

"He's a good-looking man," he said in Filipino.

"Are you going to give these pictures to Malacañang? Maybe you will alter these in the computer? I will be in hot water," he said.

Senate's help

Gutierrez said Honasan might ask the Senate for help to ensure that he will not be arrested without a warrant when he surfaces.

"Maybe next week, he will ask the help of the Senate, particularly the opposition senators, so he could be assured of fair process," Gutierrez said.

He said the senator has not surfaced despite the lifting of the state of rebellion because of the statements of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Gen. Eduardo Matillano that Honasan could still be arrested due to the concept of "continuing crime."

"If there is an assurance that they won't use this concept of continuing crime against him, he would definitely surface," Gutierrez said.

Honasan and several of his supporters are facing coup d'etat charges before the Department of Justice for the July 27 coup attempt.

Piecemeal evidence

But Gutierrez complained that the government continued to reveal evidence against Honasan "piecemeal."

He was reacting to the Department of Justice announcement that at least 10 rebel soldiers, who are applying to become state witness, had linked Honasan to the coup attempt.

On Wednesday, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the DOJ was in custody of more than 10 military officers and enlisted personnel who were induced into joining the coup.

And if they were to be believed, Honasan allegedly has multiple scars in his left upper arm because the senator allegedly attended several blood compacts to seal the plot to overthrow the government.

Calida said that one of the new witnesses was the soldier who gave the government the controversial picture that showed Honasan being present at a blood compact with Magdalo members. He added that the others also participated in the take-over of the Oakwood Premier Apartments in Makati.

"They probably realized that the government has strong evidence against them. Rather than becoming co-principals, they have come out as government witnesses," Calida said.

He said these witnesses were present during the different blood compact sessions that the rebels held.

One of them revealed the rebels' "special handshake," which supposedly involved clasping the upper arm.

These include the non-receipt of their regular rice coupons, their "loneliness pay" and the red tape involved in following up the benefits of those who had died or been wounded in combat. *With reports from Philip Tubeza; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Warning raised vs Niña's fury

DISASTER officials said Friday some communities could be hit by floods and landslides as the 14th typhoon to hit the country this year approached land.

Typhoon Niña (international name Krovanh), packing winds of 120 kph and gusts of up to 150 kph, is likely to cause damage to agriculture and infrastructure in Luzon, officials said.

"Residents in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes are advised to be alert against possible flash floods and landslides," the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Nina was expected to hit land in Isabela province late on Friday and will dump rain across Luzon and the Visayas, the weather bureau said.

"Considering the strength of the winds, there should be some expected damage again to certain crops, some infrastructure," civil defense administrator Melchor Rosales told local television.

The government is preparing to import 150,000 tons of corn to make up a shortfall caused by a typhoon which pounded Luzon last month destroying an estimated 446,000 tons of corn, most of it in Isabela. *Reuters*

AFP launches information blitz

From page A1

The ad starts with a boy muttering praises about his father's new combat boots and the appetizing food on the table. The father, clad in a fatigue uniform, happily tells him that all these were due to the increase in his pay.

The father also tells his son that they will soon have their own house through the military's housing program. Then the soldier's wife sidles up to the breakfast table inside a cramped shack and says they won't have to rent a house anymore.

The next scene shows the soldier, wife and their kid about to enter a concrete, two-story house. Army Capt. Michael Logico appears on screen and gives this extro: "That's the Filipino soldier: loyal to his family, to his country and to the Constitution." Logico reportedly belongs to Class '93 of the Philippine Military Academy.

In sum, the ad captures the gripes earlier aired by members of PMA Classes '94 and '95 to the media, and which pushed some of them to mount the failed coup attempt in Makati City on July 27.

Funding from sponsors

Military officials tried to mollify the officers by saying that the three-step increase in their basic pay started in October last year and would be completed by January, and that off-base housing units were under construction.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said that the infomercial was addressed to the public and the soldiers "for them to know what's being done in connection with some problems" that cropped up recently.

He said, however, that the funds for the ad came from sponsors, and not from military coffers.

"We thought of doing these infomercials, and some sponsors came out to provide support. They were willing to share..." Garcia said at a press briefing, adding that they wanted to remain anonymous.

"Some companies are concerned about the AFP and (would like to give support) without being given recognition."

Garcia did not say how much the infomercial cost.

Garcia also said that the military sought the help of Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, presidential adviser on ecclesiastical and media affairs, in the production of the infomercials. "He is an expert in these things."

AFP project

Earlier, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, told the INQUIRER that the commercial was part of the Armed Forces' massive campaign to inform the troops in the field about its programs and policies.

VISITING the troops. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya speaks at a press conference in Zamboanga City Thursday. Beside him is Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko. REUTERS

"This is part of the AFP's overall program to look after the morale and welfare of its troops, and provide a sense of pride among members of the AFP. It was designed for the internal audience," he said in an interview, referring to the soldiers in the field.

"It's a project of the AFP," he said.

Lucero conceded that the military had committed lapses in disseminating information to the lowest-ranking soldier stationed in the field.

"There are shortcomings in information dissemination in housing, increase in pay and allowance, and combat pay," he added, but stopped short of saying that this was what partly drove 356 disgruntled officers and enlisted men to occupy Oakwood Premier at the Ayala Center in Makati City late last month.

The airing of the ad came on the heels of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya's visits to the Army's 2nd Infantry Division headquarters in Tanay, Rizal, the Special Warfare Group's base in Sangley Point, Cavite, and Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City to touch base with the troops, officials said. *(Story on Page A----------)*

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has also been going around the country meeting with soldiers in the field.

The bulk of the 356 rebel soldiers had come from these military units.

Abaya says recruiting soldiers for coup continues

IN ZAMBOANGA City on Thursday, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya on Thursday confirmed reports of fresh attempts by coup organizers to recruit soldiers from Mindanao for another military uprising.

During a visit to the Southern Command headquarters where he talked with soldiers, Abaya said confirmation was relayed to him by "other officers and enlisted personnel" identified with the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

At the Southcom headquarters, Abaya met soldiers in a three-hour dialogue.

"Do not be enticed to join these people. You would regret it," he told them.

Abaya said there would be no way out for soldiers joining any effort to overthrow the legitimate government.

Abaya also used the occasion to discredit the claims mutiny leaders made before the Senate and the Feliciano Commission by saying that "they just want to destroy the image of the AFP."

He also informed the soldiers about President Macapagal-Arroyo's release of a P100-million fund for the combat boots and pouches of enlisted personnel.

Abaya said these provisions would be directly released to the soldiers through their battalion commanders.

During the dialogue, some soldiers directly raised many of the problems they were facing.

GMA to PMA: I'm married to the country

From page A1

ti-coup curriculum for the academy in response to the July 27 uprising.

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, said the new PMA curriculum is an improvement because it grants cadets access to information that "would help them discover the truth about society."

In her first visit here since the failed mutiny, the President said: "I did not come here to demonize the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny. But they did wrong and they must pay for it with justifiable punishment.

"I want you to fight for what is noble, worthy, just and right. Do not listen to self-serving leaders who would later be absent and leave you in controversy and confusion."

She said she would not abolish the PMA despite calls from critics who said the academy has become a breeding ground for mutineers.

Three ovations

"I affirm to you that we will not abolish the PMA," she said, receiving the loudest of three ovations from the cadets.

She said since 1987, there were calls for the abolition of the PMA because the cadets were "living in an idealistic world so devoid of reality that they were later shocked by the outside world."

Ms Macapagal decided to go by land because of the bad weather, delaying her visit here by at least two hours. She arrived here at 7 p.m. and met with the cadets at around 8:45 p.m.

She had what she called a private "heart to heart talk" with PMA officials before meeting with the cadets. Among those who joined her were former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Press Secretary Milton Alingod.

'Overbearing'

The President also acknowledged to the cadets that she could be contentious, proud and overbearing at times.

"But we all have our strengths and weaknesses . . . I do not harbor notions for superiority over my fellow human beings, including subordinates in the civilian and military establishments," she said.

In acknowledging to the mutiny leaders that corruption exists in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the President said she had called for concrete reforms.

One reform is the creation of the Task Force for Procurement Reforms, which will have a rigid screening process to box out unscrupulous contractors, she said.

She said she also stopped military infrastructure projects, except building of barangay roads, clinics, schools and hospitals.

Ms Macapagal called for a review of military financial institutions, including the procurement of petroleum products and ammunitions.

She also called for the full audit of all contingency funds in the AFP.

PMA officials had prepared a comprehensive report to the President that would defend the school's curriculum approved last month for incoming cadets.

Like in UP

Contrary to impressions about the PMA's regimented school life, classroom work at the academy is almost as intellectually liberal as in UP, according to Dr. Joy Tio, a PMA mathematics professor.

Even after the Magdalo crisis, "there (was) no policy . . . no order for us to control classroom discussions," she said. "We allow the cadets to discuss as freely as they want."

Most PMA teachers interviewed by the INQUIRER said this liberalism was essential to the academy's emerging intellectual dominance in its field.

"We are worried that (the President's decision to) introduce that Coup 101 ideology in the system would retard the growth already achieved by the PMA," an academy instructor said.

"Our cadets come from a highly selected (pool of young people). They are intelligent people and (we encourage them to) practice critical thinking. In this college we teach the cadets to analyze, to be critical . . . that is our methodology," Adan said. *With reports from Desiree Caluza and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE 104-year-old Philippine Military Academy will not be abolished despite calls from its critics that it had become a "breeding ground for mutineers," the President told PMA cadets. EDWIN BACASMAS

PNP clears Mike Arroyo; Ping not surprised

From page A1

the subject of a thorough examination by independent handwriting experts coming from neither the PNP nor the National Bureau of Investigation, he added.

Malacañang avoided the handwriting issue altogether, saying merely that it would not extend any protection or legal support to Arroyo if Lacson filed a court case against him.

In a radio interview, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "The First Gentleman will launch his own defense without any help from Malacañang. The President will not extend any mantle of protection to her husband or to any member of the family that might be faced with this case."

Specimens compared

In a computer presentation, Senior Insp. Leonito Cantollas, a document expert of the PNP Crime Laboratory, detailed seven "points of divergence" between the Jose Pidal signature and specimens submitted for examination by the First Gentleman.

Sorra said these differences would have been clearer if original signatures of Arroyo's had been submitted for comparison.

Arroyo's lawyers furnished the PNP seven specimens of his signature, a day after Lacson delivered a privileged speech accusing the First Gentleman of laundering around P270 million in campaign contributions.

Some of the money, the senator claimed, was deposited under Arroyo's alleged pseudonym "Jose Pidal."

In his presentation, Cantollas noted that the letter "J" in "Jose Pidal" had a narrow curvature while the one in "Jose Miguel Arroyo" was noticeably wider.

The stroke connecting "J" with "o" in the Pidal signature was broken while that in Arroyo's specimen was continuous. The stroke connecting "J" and "o" in the former was also much lower than the one in the specimen.

In the Pidal signature, "J" was disconnected from the next three letters. The small letter "o" also had a narrow opening and "s" and "e" were connected on top.

In the Arroyo specimens, all letters of the first name were connected. The lower case "o" had a wide opening and was connected to the "s" below.

Another key difference the experts noticed involved the terminal strokes. While the "e" in the Pidal signature was "tapered," the one in Mr. Arroyo's was "blunt."

Sorra was confident that the examination conducted by the PNP Crime Laboratory would stand similar tests by other experts, even those from abroad.

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo leads members of the media in a tour of the controversial LTA Building in Makati City. ERIK ARAZAS

"There's no percentage for error," she told reporters.

Lawyer Patricia Bunye repeated Arroyo's challenge to Lacson. "We reiterate our challenge: if he has any hard evidence, he should file the appropriate charges before the courts."

Lacson's questions

After rebutting the PNP findings, Lacson continued with his attack on Arroyo, saying the First Gentleman should explain why "Jose Pidal" was using his mailing address.

"What the First Gentleman has failed to fully explain is why Jose Pidal used the 8th floor of LTA Building located (on) Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City as his mailing address."

He asked: "Does this mean that Jose Pidal holds office in LTA Building very much like Victoria 'Vicky' Toh who also used the same address for the bank accounts of her brother, Thomas, and brother-in-law, Kelvin Tan?"

He also asked Arroyo to explain why he and Jose Pidal had the same financial advisor, Ronald Gin, of the US-based Morgan Stanley investment house.

"Is it too much of a coincidence that Mr. Arroyo and Jose Pidal have the same office address in Makati and have the same financial advisor in the US?"

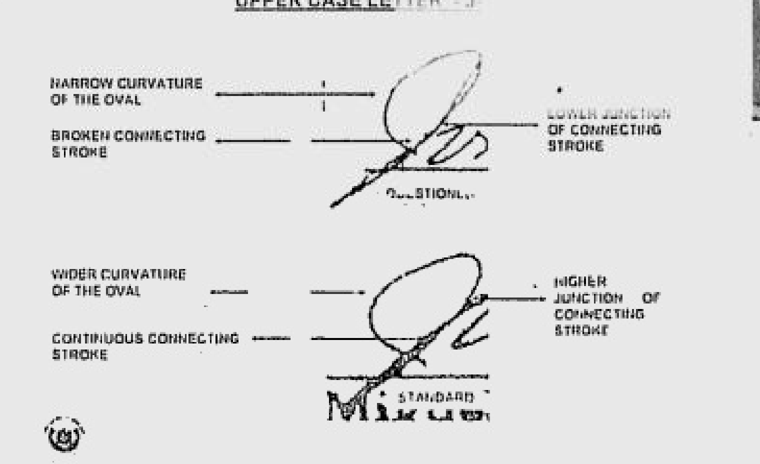
He then said that Arroyo had consistently avoided answering these issues. "What are they afraid of?"

He claimed that the President's spouse was "already shaking in fear at this point because he knows fully well that he has a lot of explaining to do about the Jose Pidal account once the Senate hearing on his alleged money laundering activities start to grind."

Lacson also doubted the claim that Jose Pidal was the name of Arroyo's grandfather.

"Enterprising reporters from ABS-CBN have discovered that there is no Jose Pidal recorded in the National Statistics Office, which is the repository of the birth certificates of all living Filipinos. There is also no Jose Pidal in the records of the Land Transportation Office."

This, he said, only corroborated his exposé on Monday that the name was an alias used by Arroyo.


UPPER CASE LETTER - J
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HIGHER JUNCTION OF CONNECTING STROKE
STANDARD

A STRONG attempt to copy Mike Arroyo's signature was how the PNP crime lab described the signature of "Jose Pidal," as it ruled that the First Gentleman could not have been the signer of the name.

SENATOR Lacson bats for a thorough examination of the signatures by independent handwriting experts.

Different concerns

Presidential spokesperson Bunye, the father of Arroyo's spokesperson Patricia, said the President should not be tarred by claims of illegal activities made against the First Gentleman, because his interests were distinctly his own and separate from the official business of the President.

"It's unfair to forcibly link whatever charges are hurled against the First Gentleman with the President," Bunye said. "The President takes care of official matters and the First Gentleman does not get involved in official matters."

Bunye had earlier said that Lacson's main goal in making the exposé was to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has described the ongoing exchange of charges between Arroyo and Lacson as an "exposé between each other's thievery."

"The chiefs of thieves in this country are exposing each other's thievery," Rosal said. "The chiefs of thieves know each other and the tricks of the trade."

He added: "Arroyo's grand thievery as well as Lacson's own massive loot from having been the biggest thief of the PNP and chief of narco-business in this country and all other heinous cases of plunder by the other big bureaucrats should all be exposed, investigated to the fullest."

In Davao City, the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines warned that any mishandling of the Pidal expose may lead to another people's revolt. Carlos Zarate, IBP chapter head, said the Macapagal administration should "be fair enough in handling the investigation."

"Even if the First Gentleman is a private person, he is still a part of the (Macapagal) administration as a member of the First Family," Zarate said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Controversy won't derail GMA's plans, says solon

By Carlito Pablo

THE CONTROVERSY over the Jose Pidal bank accounts will not derail the President's 2004 election plans, a congressman identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, a personal friend of the First Couple, is one of Ms. Macapagal's congressional allies who are pushing her to seek a full term in next year's elections.

"It (the Pidal controversy) is not fatal to her reelection," Villarama said. "In the first place, there is no case at all."

Villarama said that, at worst, opposition quarters could only make hay out of the issue in media but they cannot prove anything before the courts that the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo, violated any laws.

"The President must push on toward 2004," Villarama said. "This issue should not distract her."

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) said Lacson was obviously attempting to spook Ms Macapagal out of the 2004 presidential race by hurling charges of money laundering against the First Gentleman.

"That is what he wants to happen," Gonzalez said.

He said he believes that the political fallout from Lacson's charges against Arroyo would be "only temporary."

"It won't even last until the end of the year because the people will realize that Lacson is holding an empty bag," said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez earlier led more than 80 congressmen in signing a petition calling on Ms Macapagal to reconsider her Dec. 30, 2002 decision not to run in the May 2004 elections.

Administration Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) noted that Lacson's allegations against Arroyo signalled the start of the 2004 presidential campaign.

"The election fireworks have started quite early between Senator Lacson and President Macapagal," said Nograles, an Ateneo de Manila classmate of the First Gentleman's.

Nograles dismissed Lacson's allegations of money laundering as a "pure propaganda gimmick" that "cannot stand in a court of law."

PCGG: Swiss claimant lawyer for the Marcoses

From page A1

Commissioner Vyva Aguirre said, referring to Patrick Foetish, who arrived from Switzerland Tuesday night to stake a claim to the assets, which he said belonged to the five foundations he represents.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said Foetish's claim was another ploy of the Marcos family to delay the country's quest for justice.

"He is an interloper let loose by the Marcoses who should not be allowed to hold the Republic at bay," Chavez told the INQUIRER.

Foetish, a board member of the Maler, Arelma, Aguamina, Avertina, and Sandy foundations, was reportedly brought into the country by Marcos son-in-law Greggy Araneta.

Aguirre noted that both Philippine and Swiss courts had already ruled that the five foundations were used by the Marcoses to stash their ill-gotten wealth abroad.

The Swiss Federal Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 21, 1990, while the Philippine Supreme Court issued its decision only last July 15, when it forfeited the assets in favor of the government.

With the ruling, Swiss authorities on Aug. 5 allowed the transfer of the $683 million being held in an escrow account in the Philippine National Bank to the government.

"Who are his principals? He's obviously doing this for the Marcoses," Aguirre said, adding that the Marcoses would "do anything" to prevent the government from getting hold of the money.

"It doesn't change anything. So let's just ignore him," she said.

Same thing

A party-list congressman and martial law human rights victim said the five foundations and the Marcos interests were "one and the same."

"Perhaps, as a last and desperate attempt through the Swiss lawyer of their dummy foundations, the Marcos family hopes to delay the final judgment of the Supreme Court until such time that a presidential candidate sympathetic to them can finally win in the coming 2004 polls," Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said in a statement.

Rosales recalled that in 1999, Foetish himself, representing the five foundations, had signed an undertaking for the payment of $150 million as settlement of the compensation claims of the 9,539 martial law victims.

Marcos' widow, Imelda, also signed the proposed agreement "representing the Marcos interests in the said foundations," Rosales said.

"The undertaking did not push through as the Sandiganbayan under Justice Francis Garchitorena decided against it," she noted.

Rosales emphasized that "to claim that the foundations are separate from Marcos interests is hogwash."

"Swiss authorities recognize that foundations in the Swiss banks are not necessarily the owner of the bank accounts," she said.

"Many of them have stood as dummies in the same way that the five foundations represented by Mr. Patrick Foetish are the dummies of the Marcos family in hiding the millions upon millions of dollars stolen from government coffers during the dictatorship," she added.

GREGGY Araneta, husband of younger Marcos daughter Irene, was reportedly behind the arrival of Swiss lawyer Patrick Foetish (right) early this week to stake another claim to the $683 million in confiscated Marcos wealth the Supreme Court had ordered forfeited in favor of the Philippine government. PDI FILE

In its July 15 ruling, the Supreme Court noted that Mrs. Marcos admitted beneficial ownership of the funds deposited in the name of the foundations.

The high court pointed out that the money couldn't have been earned legitimately by the Marcoses.

Martial law victims are hoping to get P10 billion as compensation from the deposits, which are equivalent to P38 billion. The balance will go to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Already decided

PCGG Commissioner Victoria Avena said it was already "too late" for the foundations to intervene.

"How can they intervene when the decision has been made by the courts?" she asked.

The lawyer of a group of human rights victims pointed out that the foundations had not claimed the deposits since the Sandiganbayan forfeiture case involving the Swiss accounts began in 1991.

Rod Domingo of Claimants 1081 said that "legally and morally the foundations are already barred (from making a claim) because of their inaction both in the Philippine and Swiss courts."

He said presenting Foetish was a "last-ditch effort" by the Marcoses to prevent the transfer of the funds.

Selda, another claimants' group, said the entry of Foetish, "whom we don't really know," was not a cause for concern.

"*Parang comedy na lang ito* (This is like a comedy). This is just a shallow ploy by the Marcoses to block the turnover of their ill-gotten wealth to the government," said retired Navy Capt. Dan Vizmanos. "They are that desperate but there's nothing more that they can do."

Chavez said Foetish's claims were baseless since the Swiss courts themselves had ruled that the foundations were only fronts for the Marcoses.

"The claim of Foetish is baseless and dilatory," he said.

He said the foundations, the banks and the Marcoses had fought the Philippine government over the Swiss accounts since 1986 but they all lost in a series of Swiss court decisions from December 1997 to January 1998.

Chavez said the cases began in the lowest Swiss judicial level, reached the Swiss cantonal district courts, and eventually made its way to the Swiss federal court.

But the Swiss federal court, in "eight or ten decisions," ruled that the foundations were "fronts or dummies" for the Marcoses and that the money in the Swiss accounts was acquired illegally, Chavez said.

"He cannot do anything. It went through three levels of appeals and still lost. It's the end of the road for them," he said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Volt Contreras*

50% of street kids snort 'rugby'–NGO

By Norman Bordadora

HALF of the country's street children have at one time or another snorted "rugby" and other aromatic solvents to assuage hunger pangs, a group of nongovernment organizations said yesterday.

The figure is based on a profile of street children who have been taken off the streets and those who had been handled by NGOs concerned with substance abuse among minors.

"Aromatic substances are an aspect of the drug menace that our legislators and other government officials have failed to address. We are not after a ban on rugby because of its importance in the construction industry," said Awit Grace Pamfilo, program supervisor of Kanlungan sa Erma Ministry.

"We have found that there are now rugby products that are not aromatic. If we can convince our legislators to enforce the sale of nonaromatic rugby, we can take a decisive step in eradicating solvent abuse in the streets," Pamfilo said.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) estimates the number of street children in the Philippines at 75,000 to 80,000. Data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development show that the number of Filipino street children increases by 6,365 annually.

NGOs estimate the number of street children at 1.5 million.

The International Labor Organization says that since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, more and more street children across Asia have become increasingly susceptible to dangerous and illegal activities such as prostitution and drug trafficking.

ILO studies further indicate that children pass through different levels of involvement in the drug trade—from being watchouts, they become couriers before becoming actual pushers in the streets.

The profile of street children who ingest solvents was formed by several NGOs over the past 10 years or so. These NGOs include the Unang Hakbang Foundation, Development Endeavors for Organized Sustainability Foundation, Kuya Center for Street Children, Sarnelli Center for Street Children, Tahanan Outreach Projects and Services, and Virlanie Foundation.

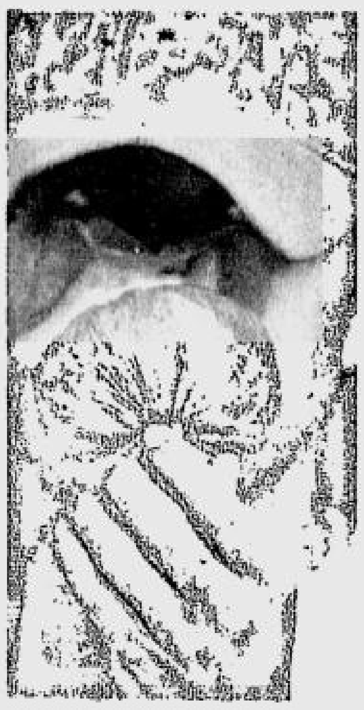
There are no other data on the actual number of street children who are into solvent abuse.

"We have asked the government to monitor the incidence of substance abuse among minors to better enforce the move to combat the sale and distribution of illegal drugs in the country. There are, however, no available data on rugby," said an official of one of the NGOs involved in the campaign.

Recent statistics from the Asian Development Bank showed that Asia is one of the world's major areas of concern in the trade of illegal drugs and that the Philippines is one of the major transit points. The ADB said there are an estimated 312,000 drug addicts in the Philippines today.

The NGOs working with street children, together with the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Lakas Pinoy—a private sector group composed of small and medium enterprise businessmen—yesterday launched an advocacy campaign calling on legislators to address the problem of solvent abuse.

"We would appreciate it if the senators would focus on this issue first rather than the scandals. This affects the most precious resource of the country—the children," said Nathan Zulueta, president of the QCCCI and Lakas Pinoy.



ABUSED mainly to ease hunger pangs, the use of nonaromatic rugby would go a long way toward ending solvent abuse, according to an NGO.

Customs officials tender resignations over trial by publicity

From page A1

resignations.

Initially, five officials—including three from the Bureau of Customs—had been charged before the Ombudsman for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Recent news reports had it that Malacañang's Transparency Group had discovered that about 80 percent of BOC, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Department of Public Works and Highways officials were 'millionaires.'

The names of the officials were published in the stories about their SALS.

"In some situations, the SALs were published without giving people a chance to explain," Bernardo said.

"The President thanked the commissioners for the offer (to resign) made in the spirit of *delicadeza* (propriety) and professionalism but she did not accept the courtesy resignations,". presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said the resignations were relayed by Camacho to the President before she left for Baguio City before 2 p.m. yesterday.

Bunye said the President was willing to meet with the BOC officials when she returned from Baguio.

Bernardo and Deputy Commissioners Ray Allas, Alexander Arevalo, George Jereos and Gil Valera submitted their courtesy resignations. The fifth deputy commissioner, lawyer Emma Rosqueta, is out of the country.

"We have done this to show our full support to the President's ongoing drive for good governance to cleanse the bureaucracy, and to give her a free hand in making whatever changes are necessary towards that end ... In the spirit of *delicadeza* and professionalism, we have tendered our courtesy resignations to reiterate our dedication to our sworn duty in the service of our people," Bernardo said, reading from a statement at a press conference at the BOC yesterday.

BUREAU of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and his deputies announce their courtesy resignations in the "spirit of delicadeza."

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Minutes before the press conference, customs employees staged a small rally in front of their building to express support for the officials.

As the briefing was about to start, Bernardo said Camacho had called to tell him he would recommend that the President reject their resignations.

Real reason

Despite their gripes, Bernardo maintained their resignations were meant to show their support for the transparency drive.

The customs commissioner said they were not supporting those who amassed illegal wealth, but they wanted to protect the innocent people in the bureau.

Morale at the bureau has "definitely" been affected, Bernardo said.

One of the deputy commissioners who tendered his courtesy resignation was Valera, one of five BOC and DPWH officials charged with graft before the Ombudsman last Wednesday, after the Transparency Group had reportedly found they had unexplained wealth.

The Transparency Group, which is under the office of Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao and headed by 29-year-old lawyer Nick Conti, a presidential assistant, is conducting the lifestyle checks with the assistance of the Office of the Ombudsman, state prosecutors and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police.

Bunye said the President gave assurances that officials affected by the lifestyle checks would be given due process and won't be subjected to what they perceived to be "trial by publicity."

"We will observe the rights of those under investigation. If there would be charges, these will be filed before the proper legal venue," he said.

But Bunye, in a radio interview, defended the lifestyle checks.

He said investigation of the SALs filed by public officials was the first step in the check.

He said officials affected by the check should explain the disparity in their lawful income and their assets before the Transparency Group.

"What is important here is that officials subject to lifestyle checks should explain what they have declared in their (SALs). If (their assets) are not proportionate to their income, then they have to have a credible explanation," Bunye said.

Don't jump to conclusions

Asked if their courtesy resignations would affect BOC operations, Bernardo said "no" as they would stay on until their resignations were accepted.

Camacho said he was arranging a meeting between Bernardo and President Macapagal early next week to clarify the issues and so the customs chief would know how his efforts at turning collections around at the bureau were well regarded at Malacañang.

The finance chief said the public must not jump to conclusions and relate an official's net worth to his credibility and ethics.

"When I met with them [BIR, BOC officials], they were very hurt by the sweeping accusations that came out implying that because they had reported net worths of more than P1 million, therefore their wealth was unexplained. This is very unfair.

"A SAL by itself is only a factual report of an individual's wealth and should not be interpreted out of context, particularly when not accompanied by an investigation," Camacho said.

Instead of being unfairly accused of amassing supposed unexplained wealth, Camacho said customs as well as BIR officials should be commended for their impressive collection performance this year.

Exceed targets

Customs collects almost 20 percent of the government's annual income, while the BIR delivers about 72 percent. The government must earn P584.1 billion and limit spending to P786.1 billion this year.

Since January, the BOC has mostly exceeded its tariff collection targets, while the BIR has consistently surpassed its goal since April.

During his stint at the bureau, Bernardo said the agency made a big contribution toward narrowing the budget deficit.

From January to July this year, the bureau was able to exceed its target by almost P5.6 billion, an increase of nearly P10 billion over the same period last year.

At the same time, Bernardo said the BOC was able to launch several reforms and programs in trade facilitation that resulted in the Philippines being chosen the model country for customs modernization by the World Economic Forum.

Recently, he said, the bureau launched a project with Transparency International, the World Customs Organization and Usaid to come up with an integrity action plan.

"Our people not only have been threatened but actually ambushed in two instances, resulting in the deaths of three BOC employees and injuries to three others, including a district collector," he said.

"Notwithstanding all these, recent events have adversely affected the image and morale of some of our personnel, their families and loved ones, and of the entire bureau," he said.

Not Parayno

BIR Commissioner Parayno said that although he was included in the Transparency Group report together with some of his subordinates, he was not going to resign because it would create further destabilization in government.

The Transparency Group said only 15 of 78 BIR officials from commissioner to directors were non-millionaires, while only three of 39 customs officials were worth less than P1 million.

"If the senior officials of the top two revenue generating agencies resigned, it would further hurt the economy. We are already seeing the impact of the suspension order on the central bank governor on the peso and it was not even executory yet," Parayno said.

The revenue commissioner said the government must handle the issue of the lifestyle check well so as not to further demoralize the personnel of the two agencies.

But the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission yesterday assured the public there would be no letup in the lifestyle checks and the filing of graft charges against erring officials, even with the resignation of the key officials of the Bureau of Customs.

Alive in Baghdad: 'Dead' Pinay phones home

From page A1

of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel that Marilyn had brought from the Philippines.

"I have a second chance with my wife again," he said.

Aide to UN envoy

Marilyn is a sister of former Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Federico Macaranas.

She was a top aide to UN envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was among those killed in the Tuesday bombing.

A Filipino, Ranillo Buenaventura, an official in the UN's humanitarian coordination office, had been reported killed in the blast. The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad said another Filipino, Maila Acosta, a radio operator in the UN office, is in a Jordan hospital for treatment of contusions and bruises. Another Filipino at the UN office, Meliton Mondejar, has been reported missing.

It was Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian, who had persuaded Marilyn to come to Iraq with him.

"I don't know if mom knows that Sergio is dead," Vladimir told The Daily News. "She would be very upset."

The paper reported that Marilyn joined the United Nations in 1985. She worked in some of the world's hot spots, including Somalia, Liberia and East Timor, where she worked closely with Vieira de Mello.

Thanksgiving Mass

In Manila, Marilyn's cousin, Susan de Vera, said memorial prayers planned for yesterday were instead turned into a thanksgiving Mass.

"They are celebrating now because she's alive. Actually it's her birthday today," she said.

De Vera said Marilyn's husband was very sad when she called him up on Wednesday night.

"He could not accept that she was dead and as it turns out he was right," she said. "If she had not been able to borrow a cell phone, we would still be grieving."

De Vera said Marilyn will be flown back to New York over the weekend.

Dead, alive, dead, alive

ABCNews.com reported that Marilyn had actually been declared "dead" twice by the UN headquarters in New York.

Last Wednesday, the United Nations, relying on reports from its Baghdad office, said Marilyn was among those who had died.

Then in the afternoon, her name was taken off the list of fatalities after the UN received word that she was found alive in a Baghdad hospital.

An hour later, the United Nations said it had unfortunately confirmed that Marilyn was indeed dead, just a few hours shy of what would have been her 54th birthday on Thursday.

The American news network reported that that day was "a terrible roller coaster" for Marilyn's friends and colleagues and that they ended the day mourning at a UN candlelight vigil where UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke.

Marilyn's phone call to her family in New York on Thursday morning finally settled the issue.

Mistaken identity

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila issued a statement saying that Marilyn was mistaken for a Spanish national with the same surname who was a casualty in the Baghdad bombing.

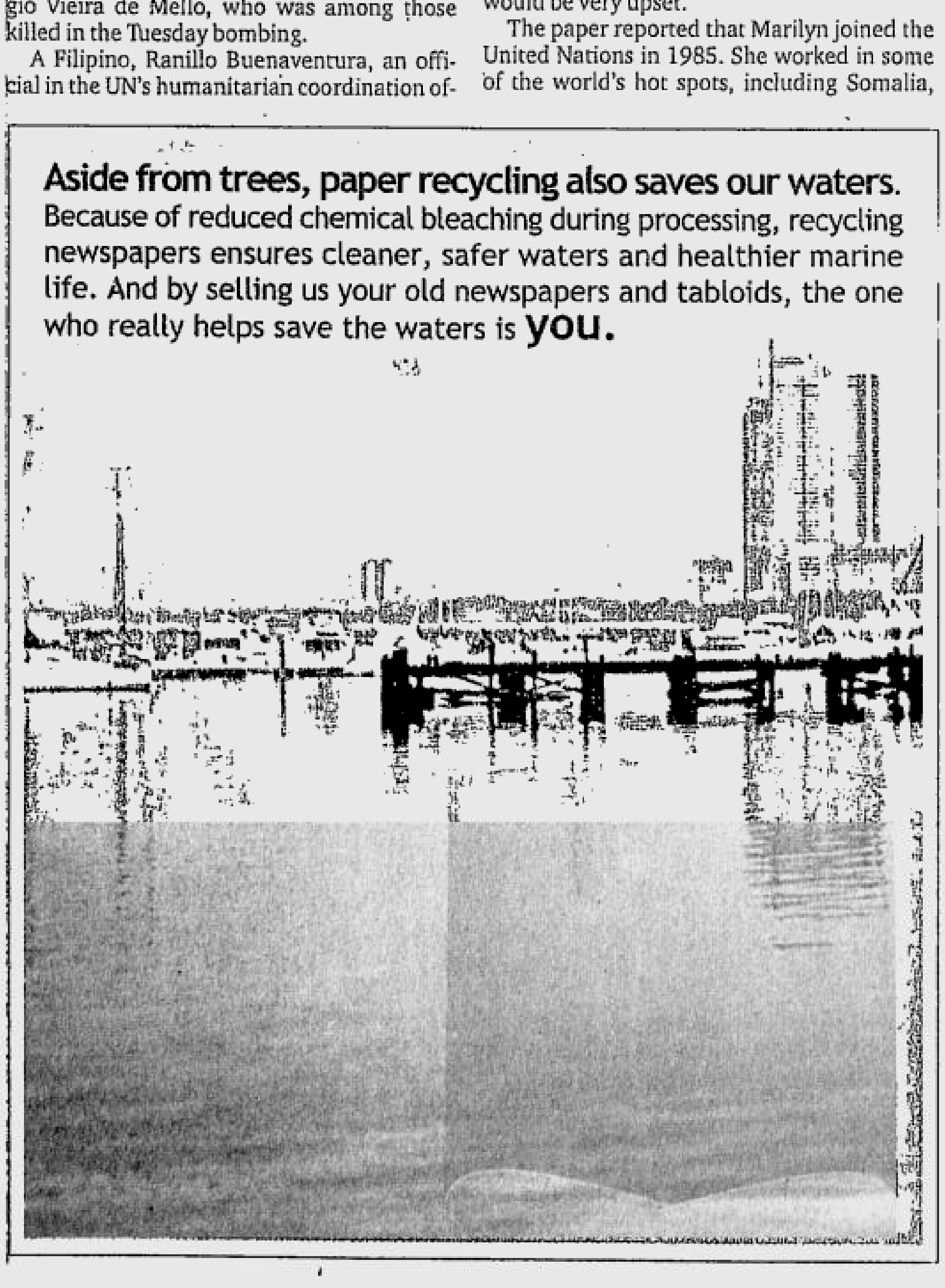
In a report to the DFA, Philippine chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, Grace Princesa Escalante, said she received a call from Radem Mayer of the UN Security Office in Baghdad that Marilyn was alive.

"As soon as the UN informs the embassy of her whereabouts we will visit her to extend assistance," Escalante said in her report.

Escalante said she was also informed by Vladimir Manuel that his mother had called them up earlier.

ABCNews.com quoted an unidentified UN official as saying that the error in reporting Marilyn's death may have been due to the poor state of communications in Baghdad.

With reports from Gerald Lacuarta, AP



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Motorists get chance to speed up on clearway

By Margaux Ortiz

WONDER why there are traffic enforcers carrying big stop signs beneath traffic lights on Quezon Avenue?

Blame it on the clearway scheme.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Traffic Operations Center director, yesterday said motorists have been taking advantage of the clearway scheme to speed up on Quezon Avenue.

MMDA officials had earlier announced that the purpose of the scheme was to allow for the continuous flow of traffic on the avenue.

But pedestrians who want to cross the broad avenue are having a hard time doing so, Vergel de Dios said.

"Pedestrians are complaining because motorists do not stop when they are supposed to anymore," Vergel de Dios said.

He said that big signs underneath the traffic lights are the MMDA's solutions to the problem.

"Our men would carry signs to remind the motorists to stop at the red light so that the pedestrians could cross," the MMDA traffic director said.

"We'll do this until the motorists get used to letting the pedestrians pass," he said in Filipino.

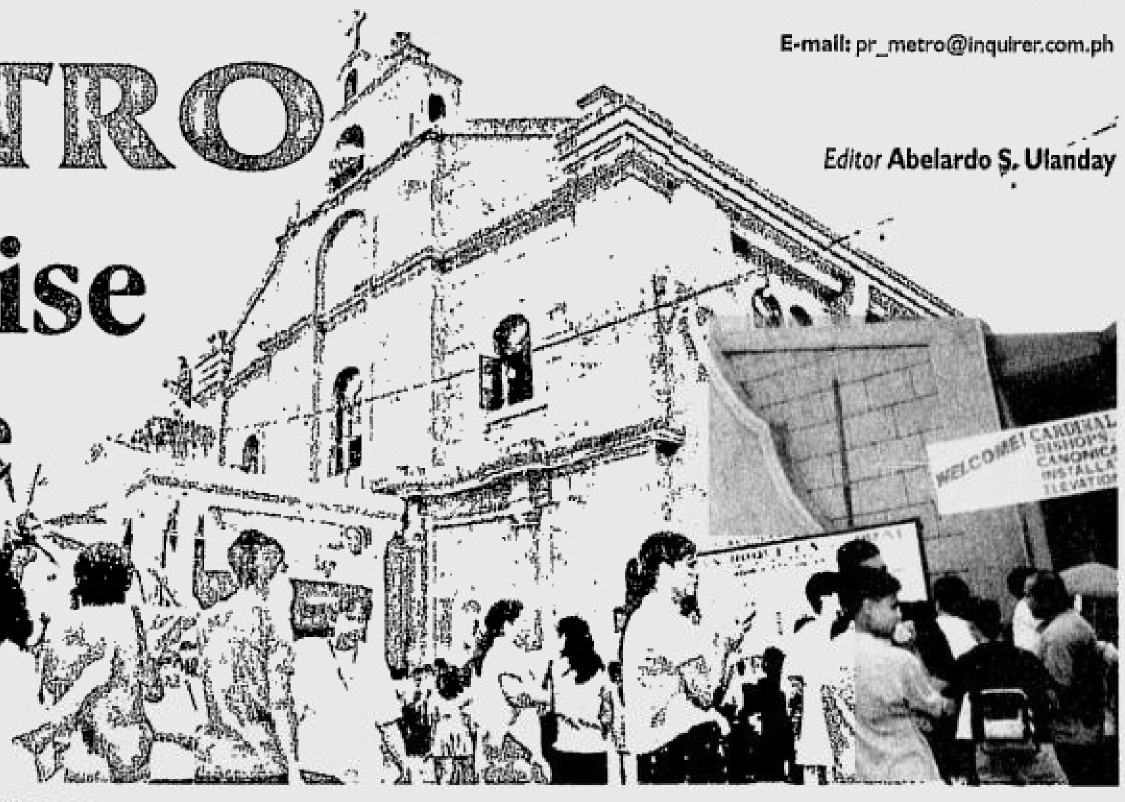
Vergel de Dios said that they would eventually remove the stoplights as soon as they have completed the construction of pedestrian overpasses on Quezon Avenue.

Vergel de Dios added that the clearway scheme has improved traffic on the Avenue since it was implemented a week ago.

"Give it a few weeks more and motorists would see and experience the advantages of this scheme," the traffic director said.

Protests mar rise of new diocese

By Blanche Rivera
and Edson Tandoc Jr.



THE SAN Roque Cathedral rises as a new bastion for the poor in the Church. JOAN BONDOC

"THE POOR are number one in God's eyes," said Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin during his homily at the formation yesterday of the new diocese of Caloocan.

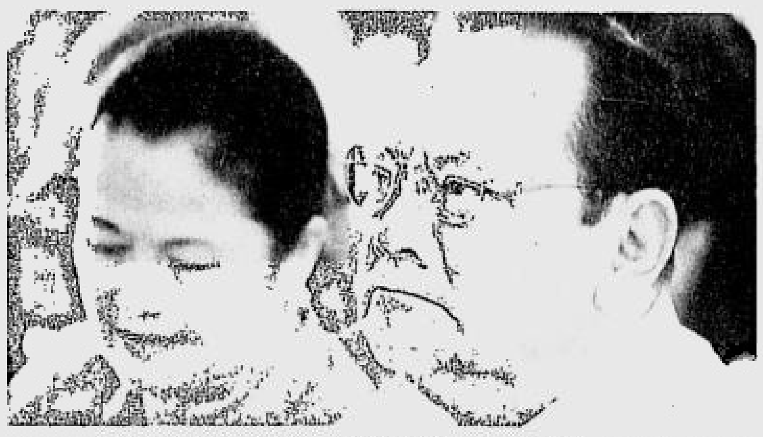
But if the poor found favor with God, politicians and donors apparently took center stage at yesterday's event at the newly elevated San Roque Cathedral on A. Mabini Street in Caloocan City.

Hundreds of devotees from the 26 marginalized parishes of Caloocan, Navotas, Malabon and Zambales cried discrimination.

They were told by ushers at the cathedral entrance that the seats had been reserved for prominent guests and those who had given a P2,000 "donation" per head.

Most of those left under the noon day sun were from Olongapo and Zambales who accompanied their erstwhile bishop Deogracias Iñiguez to his new assignment as the first bishop of Caloocan.

Inside the cathedral, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo and Sen. Robert Barbers took the front pews next to the guest bishops. They later joined the mayors and congressmen of the three cities covered by the diocese during lunch.



BUSINESSMAN Eduardo Cojuangco listens intently to the homily of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. JOAN BONDOC

Other guests were provided food in styrofoam packs.

"This is the only church we've been to that rejects people. They would not let us in just because we do not have P2,000," said Ligaya Castañeda of the Apostolado ng Panalangin of Iba, Zambales.

Donors were identified through a gold medallion that they wore. These were also armed with an invitation and the receipt for their P2,000 "donation" which they showed to the ushers.

Fr. Adrian Magnaid, chancellor of the new diocese, denied there was any discrimination. He explained that those who failed to get a seat probably came late.

He also denied that only those who gave P2,000 were given seats pointing out that the church could seat 1,000. Some 2,500 people attended the affair.

Magnaid said the donations were voluntary.

Meanwhile, Bishop Ramon Arguelles questioned the presence of politicians. "This is a church occasion," he said.

Caloocan accounts for the third largest voting population in Metro Manila as of 2001.

FVR daughter steadily improving, says kin

THE CONDITION of Carolina Ramos-Sembrano, daughter of former President Fidel V. Ramos, is improving, according to her sister.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Angelita Ramos said that her sister "Chula" remains unconscious, "but her bodily functions and other vital indicators are, per the attending physicians' assessment, slowly but steadily improving."

Sembrano figured in a hit-and-run accident in Parañaque City last month.

Ramos said that according to Dr. Victor Reyes, the country's neurosurgeon "emeritus" who is the adviser of the medical team treating her sister, Sembrano's brain has not been damaged.

Ramos said that there will eventually be a second operation to replace the 8 cm. square skull bone which was temporarily removed after the accident.

Sembrano is the third of five daughters of Fidel and Amelita Ramos. She is married to businessman and retired police officer Alex Sembrano.

"The family is very sensitive about her (Sembrano's) condition," said a close friend of the Ramos family. "Let us just respect their decision to keep these matters private."

It was reported earlier that Sembrano's condition had been critical and that she was scheduled to be operated on for the third time.

Sembrano's family had denied the report. *Margaux Ortiz*

Lifestyle check may cause work stoppage

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE Macapagal administration doesn't stop its "shame campaign"—branding as corrupt government officials, even before they have been charged in court—it will face a work stoppage in government.

About 80 percent of personnel at the Bureau of Customs staged a picket yesterday at the South Harbor to protest the publication of names of Customs officials who allegedly flunked the lifestyle check. Customs personnel who staged the picket were working overtime at the piers, yesterday being a holiday.

Personnel at the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) may follow the example of Customs officials and employees. Had it not been a holiday, there might have been a sympathy picket at the BIR and DPWH offices.

* * *

The Customs picket followed the mass courtesy resignation of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and his deputy commissioners.

The President, however, did not accept the resignations.

The courtesy resignations of officials at the BIR and DPWH might be given to the President on Monday.

* * *

Clearly, the lifestyle check on some government officials and employees was made without study of its consequences.

The officials concerned were not given a chance to explain how they got their "ill gotten wealth" to the investigating body.

Most of the fortunes of the officials under fire were listed in the statements of assets and liabilities (SAL). Investigators should have checked the officials' SALs before concluding that the wealth of these officials had been illegally acquired.

* * *

Take the case of Public Works and Highways Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto.

All his assets and liabilities were reflected in the SAL he filed on Dec. 31, 2002. Most of Pleyto's conjugal property were acquired by his wife, Girlie, who has several businesses like poultry and piggery.

* * *

Had government investigators looked closely into his assets, they would have found that it was not impossible for Pleyto to own so many pieces of property because of his wife's business.

"I can explain everything to the Ombudsman," Pleyto said, showing his wife's business permits. "My wife has been in the poultry and piggery business since 1978, how can it not be possible for us not to live in comfort?"

Pleyto said that even if he is cleared of charges of having ill-gotten wealth, most people will still believe he's corrupt because of the publication.

* * *

When Sen. Panfilo Lacson implicated me and two other columnists in his alleged money laundering expose on the Senate floor, he apparently meant to subject us to public embarrassment.

For example, my friend now kids me that I already have a title after my name similar to M.A. (master of arts); MBA (master of business administration); or PhD (doctor of philosophy).

It's now Ramon Tulfo, C.E. (for certified extortionist).

Lacson said that I was a certified extortionist without showing proof.

That's why I understand Ador Pleyto's plight.

* * *

What do I intend to do about Lacson's serious charge?

Nothing. I can take what I dish out in my column and radio and TV commentaries.

I don't get mad, I get even!

* * *

How come Judge Ruben Cosuco of the municipal court of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, was appointed to that lofty position when he's ignorant of the law?

Cosuco dismissed a rape case filed by a mentally retarded 19-year-old girl against a 21-year-old man because it took the victim six months to file the case.

How could the victim have known she was raped when she's not normal?

* * *

The victim's parents learned about the rape after the girl became pregnant, and so filed the case on her behalf. The "fruit" of the rape is now one month old.

The victim, whose mental age is eight years old, told her parents the accused was her defiler.

"The Court must uphold the primacy of the presumption of innocence in favor of the accused when the evidence at hand fails short of quantum required to support conviction," said the judge in his decision.

Is the one-month-old baby not enough proof that the mental retardate was raped?

* * *

What are the criteria for choosing and appointing a municipal judge?

Clearly one of the criteria is that the candidate must have sufficient intelligence.

How come Cosuco was appointed to the bench?

American busted for illegal recruitment

By Leila Salaveria
and Tina Santos

AMERICAN David Lee Sceurman has been arrested allegedly for preying on Filipinos seeking jobs abroad.

National Bureau of Investigation agents collared Sceurman, who had been staying at the Legaspi Towers 300 on Roxas Boulevard in Malate, Manila, based on the complaints of Remedios Santiago and Alice Simbulan.

The two women said the suspect promised them jobs in the United States as caregivers.

Santiago and Simbulan alleged that from March to June of this year, they forked over $2,700 to the American as payment.

But after the suspect asked for P25,000 from each complainant, Santiago and Simbulan sought the help of the NBI's Counter-Intelligence Division (CID).

The NBI learned that Sceurman is neither licensed nor authorized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to recruit workers for overseas employment.

In Quezon City, at least 16 people yesterday trooped to the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit to lodge a complaint against Myrna Horca who allegedly promised them jobs in the US.

Police yesterday said that they are expecting more people to come forward and file the same complaint against Horca, a resident of Matatag Street, Barangay Central, Quezon City.

The complainants said that last February, each of them gave Horca P6,000 to P10,000 as placement fees for jobs in the US as caregivers. After that, Horca disappeared, police said.

When they checked with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, the complainants learned that Horca has no license to recruit workers for jobs abroad.

THANKS to two burglars, authorities have put a stop to the manufacture of shabu in this house in Fairview, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Burglars stumble on drug lab in QC

By Tina Santos

TWO SUSPECTED burglars unwittingly stumbled on a shabu laboratory when they broke into a house on Buick Street, Dahlia Subdivision, Fairview, Quezon City.

Suspects Alvino de Guzman, 33, and Roberto Duroja, 28, both of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, tried to steal a weighing scale, money counter and gas stove from the house at about 1 p.m. on Aug. 14, said Central Police District Station 5 commander Supt. Jolly Dizon.

But an alleged caretaker of the house saw the suspects and chased them away.

In their haste, the two men jumped into the compound of Radio Veritas, and into the hands of security guards, police said.

The guards turned over the suspects to the police.

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that they found several drums of suspicious chemicals and laboratory equipment in the house, Dizon said.

Dizon added that they checked with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and learned that a drug syndicate was using the house to manufacture illegal drugs.

This prompted police to place the house under surveillance.

At about 9 a.m. yesterday, CPD policemen and PDEA operatives secured a warrant from Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Bruselas Jr. and raided the house, Dizon said.

The police seized at least five drums of ephedrine, a key ingredient for manufacturing shabu, a burner and weighing scales, among others.

Dizon said they also processed shabu contained in plastic bags.

Unconfirmed reports revealed that the house used to belong to a ranking police official.

The house was reportedly leased to Taiwanese William So in April.

According to residents in the area, So apparently abandoned the house last June.

The Fairview house was the 10th to be raided since last month.

Last Wednesday, police hit a warehouse in Carmona, Cavite, believed to be the province's second largest shabu laboratory. At least 180 kilos of shabu and several chemicals used in the manufacture of the illegal substance were seized.

METROBRIEFS

Fakes seized

COUNTERFEIT sunglasses and toothpaste worth P4.6 million have been seized in Manila and Cebu by the National Bureau of Investigation Intellectual Property Rights Division. About 26,000 pieces of fake Oakley products worth P2.6 M were confiscated from stalls GB-7 and GB-9 at the Carriedo Plaza in Quiapo; the Cool Shade Enterprises on Lincoln Street and the Kamie Gift Shop, both in Cebu City. Meanwhile, 782 boxes of the fake Colgate toohthpaste worth P2 million were siezed from a stockroom in Binondo. *Leila B. Salaverria*

She's responsible

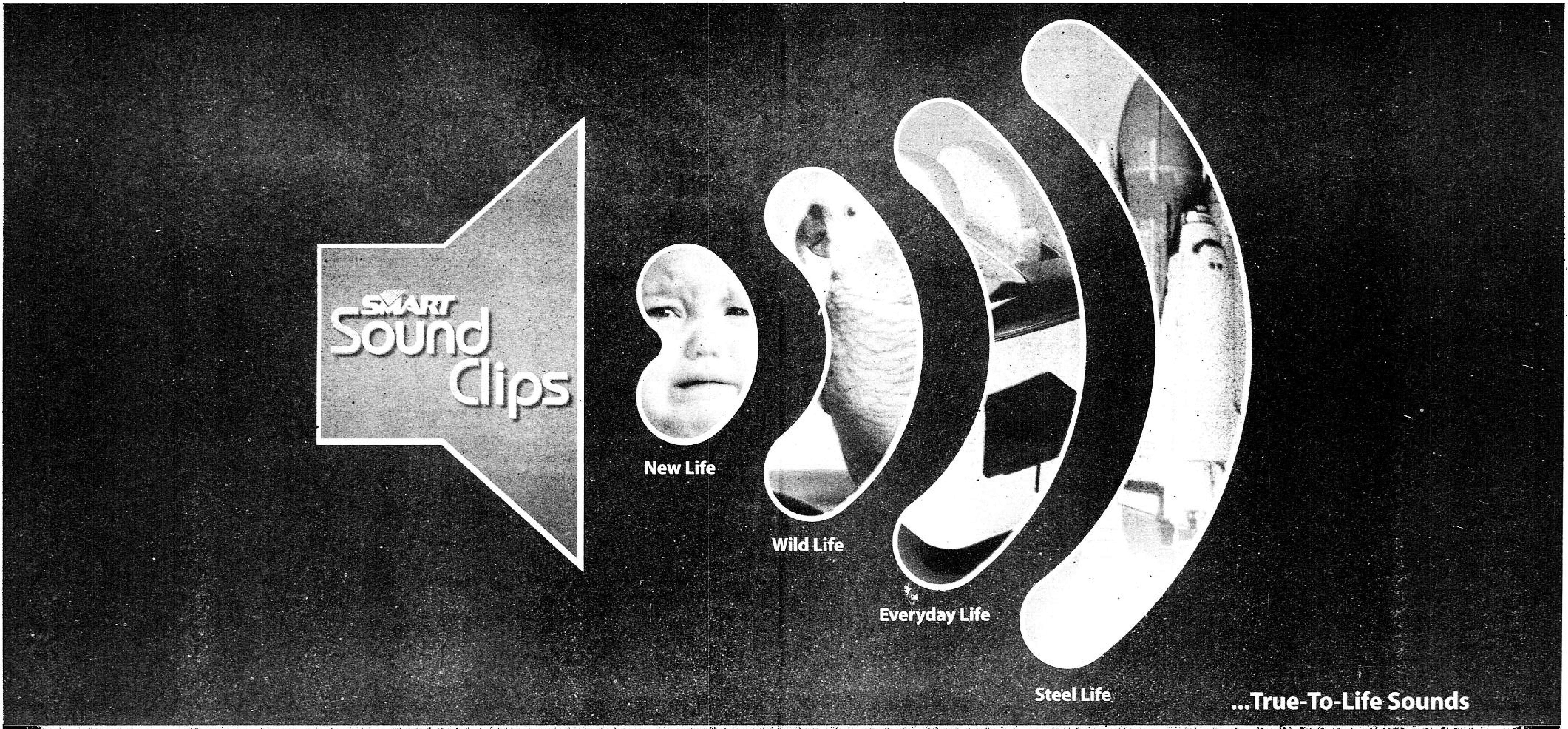
BOOKBINDER III Karen de la Cruz said P60,000 entrusted to her was taken by "wrongdoers." Nonetheless, assistant Manila prosecutor Joel Lucasan said she was still responsible for the lost government money as he recommended the filing of malversation charges against De la Cruz. The accused was supposed to turn over the money to the City Treasurer's Office but lost it to thieves after she brought it home "for safekeeping." *Tarra Quismundo*

High-rise shocker

LEONARD Nagulat, 36, had a shocking surprise as he fixed a billboard on the 19th floor of the United Coconut Planters Bank building on the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue, Makati City, yesterday. Nagulat, of 543 Vergel St. Pasay City, was fixing an electrical circuit when he accidentally touched a live wire that sent a blast of electricity through his body. His companion Arman Celso rushed him to the Makati Medical Center but he was declared dead on arrival. *Margaux Ortiz, Michelle Fernandez*

Two in a row

ROBBERS struck twice in one hour along the Marcos highway in Marikina City before dawn yesterday. They first held up six persons in a jeepney at 12:25 a.m. then victimized eight more jeepney passengers near the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall an hour later. In both instances, they fled aboard a taxi after the heists which netted them P3,000 in cash and valuables. One of the suspects was later identified through a photo gallery as John Ray Rapada. Another suspect, Eliterio Novilla, 19, was arrested in a follow-up operation. *Luige del Puerto, Benjamin Bartolome*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

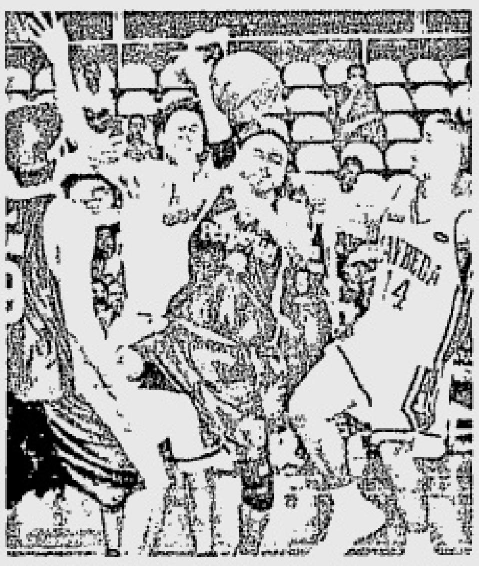
- Team USA rip Dominicans /A28
- Curtis, Garcia share lead /A27
- The heat's on 'Schumi' /A31

DAY OF UNDERDOGS

Blazers whip Knights; Altas tame Lions

GAMES MONDAY
(*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs SSC-R (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—UPHR vs Mapua (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro



PERPETUAL Help's Vladymir Joe loses the ball as he drives against Timothy Ong. RUDY ESPERAS

IT WAS the cellar-dweller toppling the leader as College of St. Benilde kept its faint Final Four hopes alive by whipping Letran, 90-72, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

And Perpetual Help made it a big day for the underdogs by inflicting a third straight loss on San Beda, 68-63.

When the smoke of battle cleared, the Letran Knights found themselves still on top but with Jose Rizal and defending champion San Sebastian as company at 7-4.

The SBC Lions slipped to solo fifth at 6-5 behind idle Mapua (6-4), the Perpetual Altas improved to 4-7 while the CSB Blazers left Philippine Christian (3-8) all alone at the basement by posting only their fourth win in 12 games.

"It's all about pride. Although our chances of making it in the Final Four were slim, we tried to win the game for ourselves and the school that we represent," said St. Benilde coach Tonichi Yturri.

The Knights took the Blazers, who lost all their seven games in the first round, lightly and paid the price as Ron Capati and Al Magpayo struck heaviest for CSB inside the paint.

Magpayo banged in eight of his 22 points in the third period as the Blazers surged ahead, 64-51, and then Capati put CSB beyond reach, 80-63, with two minutes left.

The only bright spot for Letran came when Ronjay Enrile and Boyet Bautista moved the Knights within 60-66 at the start of the final period.

But Capati, Magpayo, Luis Abad and Unik Reyes, dropped an 8-0 bomb that felled the Knights for good, 74-60.

First game (Jrs)

LETRAN 91—Morial 26, Butuin 24, Abdon 10, Lapitan 9, Martin 9, Tajao 8, Ruiz 3, Musni 2, Latonio 0, Espiritu 0, Reodique 0, Salazar 0, Pasana 0, Mariwa 0.

CSB 90—Libunao 22, Villame 20, Guevarra 18, Moises 10, Sia 10, Soller 5, Sibug 4, Caderma 1, Galdula 0, Torralba 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 40-47, 61-68, 91-90

Second game (Srs)

CSB 90—Capati 23, Magpayo 22, U.Reyes 16, Abad 10, Orbeta 9, Sanidad 6, Rivera 2, Mendoza 2, Robles 0.

LETRAN 72—Enrile 16, Bautista 11, Aldave 11, Aban 10, Pinera 9, Rodriguez 7, Santos 5, Reyes 3, Fedelicio 0, Anabo 0.

Quarters: 20-25, 44-39, 64-51, 90-72

Third game (Srs)

UPHR 68—Barnson 15, Javier 12, Misa 8, Joe 6, Tayer 5, Cuenco 5, Burgos 5, Balboa 4, Botin 3, Aseron 3, Quiazon 2, Mendoza 0.

SBC 63—Paterno 19, Casino 13, Bughao 12, Cordero 6, Padilla 3, Bombeo 3, Hudencial 3, Weber 2, Ong 2, Angeles 0, Apepe 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 24-20, 34-37, 54-52, 68-63.

RP cagers capture 3rd Seaba crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KUALA LUMPUR—Bereft of collegiate stars, the Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier squad still got the job done impressively by crushing long-time rival Malaysia, 96-81, Thursday night to win its third consecutive Southeast Asian Basketball championship here.

The Filipinos banked on their hot outside shooting to erect a 17-point 56-39 lead in the third quarter then overcame foul trouble and the Malaysians' last-ditch stand, aided by numerous dubious calls, to complete a three-game sweep of the championship.

It was sweet victory for the Nationals who were considered weak for the regional challenge after the UAAP refused to lend four of its stars.

The hastily formed RP team and Malaysia earned slots to the Asian Basketball Confederation championships next month in China.

Earlier, Thailand defeated Vietnam, 81-77 to place third.

Assembled just a month ago, the Jean Henri Lhuillier-funded squad will compete in a few more invitational tournaments before embarking for the ABC which is the qualifying event for the Athens Olympics next year.

National coach Aric Del Rosario said he would still tap reinforcements for the team which will also see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

Del Rosario was all praises for the RP five.

"The boys are showing the character of good players. They did not give up despite the poor officiating," said Rosario. "We still have a tendency to relax when we have a big lead but more or less this is a complete team."

The RP-Cebuana Lhuillier defeated Thailand (83-56) and Vietnam (99-48) before frustrating the host team.

Gary David, who hit four three-pointers in that decisive third quarter assault by the Filipinos, incurred his fourth foul just a minute into the last quarter.

Starting point guard Celino Cruz and big men Ranidel de Ocampo, Ervin Sotto and Ricaredo Calimag were also slapped with fourth fouls, giving the Malaysians the opportunity to start a big run that got them to within seven, 65-72.

"I know the calls won't go our way so we decided to just attack Malaysia's defense which we discovered to be weak," said Del Rosario.

Scores:

RP 96—David 16, De Ocampo 14, Madrid 14, Orota 14, Wilson 9, Calimag 8, Pingris 8, Melencio 7, Cruz 4, Franco 2, Omolon 0, Sotto 0.

MALAYSIA 81—Satyaseelan 15, Song 13, Kaw 11, Thiam 10, Tek 8, Hoong 7, Kean 6, Siong 4, Won 4, Yong 3, Thai 0

Quarters: 25-19, 54-39, 72-63, 96-81

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keyword: ALVAREZ
keyword: BORNANCIN
keyword: ARTADI
keyword: MIRANDA
keyword: ESPIRITU
keyword: TANG
keyword: LUANZON
keyword: SANTOS

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ANGEL Aquino
ARA Mina
Benedicto **MEMBRERE**
CHESCA Garcia
Christian **DELROSARIO**
CAROL Banawa
DANICA Sotto
DIANA Zubiri
DOLPHY
EPY Quizon
GABBY Eigenmann
Gerard **JONES**
GREG Martin
Gino **MANANSALA**
IAN Veneracion
James **RAZON**
James **ZABLAN**
JANICE de Belen
JAY Manalo
Jayr **REYES**
Jemal **VIZCARRA**
SWEET Lapus
JOYCE Jimenez
JV **CASIO**
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KORINA Sanchez
LA **TENORIO**
Larry **FONACIER**
MANEUVERS
MARC Nelson
Mark **CARDONA**
Mark **ISIP**
Manny **RAMOS**
MARICEL Soriano
MARTIN Nievera
OGIE Diaz
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La Salle, UE seek solid Final 4 grip

PLAYMAKER Paul Artadi (left) will be a marked man in UE's game against UP. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

GAMES TODAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11 a.m.—UE vs UPIS (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle-Zobel vs UST (Jrs)

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	8	1
Ateneo	7	2
La Salle	5	3
UE	5	3
Adamson	4	5
UST	3	5
UP	1	7
NU	1	8

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE and the University of the East try to remain in Final Four contention when they battle separate rivals today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Sharing third place with identical 5-3 cards, the Archers and the Warriors meet the University of the Philippines Maroons and the Santo Tomas Tigers, respectively, bidding to keep leaders Far Eastern and Ateneo within striking distance.

Gametime between La Salle and Santo Tomas is set at 4 p.m., while UE tackles UP at 2 p.m. UE and UP-Integrated School clash at 11 a.m. in the junior division, while La Salle-Zobel collides with the Baby Tigers in the nightcap at 6 p.m.

"UST is dangerous," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren yesterday.

The Archers are still smarting from a 76-74 loss to the Tamaraws last August 16 after blowing a 17-point lead.

La Salle, however, will carry an impressive record against Santo Tomas, which will be handled by coach Aric del Rosario again. Del Rosario steered the national men's basketball team to the recent SEABA championship in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday.

UST hasn't beaten La Salle since winning Game One of the 1999 finals, 62-60. The Tigers are 0-11 against the Archers, having lost 88-75 in the first round.

UE is also hurting from a 76-67 lashing it got from Ateneo at the start of the second round and coach Boyzie Zamar must squeeze the best from starters Paul Artadi and James Yap to drub UP.

Yap and Artadi have been playing inconsistently and the Warriors should regain their fighting hearts to stay in the hunt for the Final Four.

Last year, UE enjoyed a twice-to-beat edge but lost to eventual champion Ateneo in the Final Four.

The Maroons, however, will play without slotman Kenneth Robin, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament after a freak accident during practice at the UP Gym.

Meanwhile, the UAAP board headed by president Jose Capistrano Jr. and commissioner Joe Lipa will meet today to discuss the incident involving Adamson's Mark Abadia and Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales.

Gonzales left the game with a bandaged chin courtesy of Abadia's elbow. The cut needed five stitches to close.

This was the second incident involving the Adamson star this season. Abadia was also thrown out against NU after getting tagged with two technical fouls.

Odds even in titular showdown

GAME TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola (Game 3)
Game 1—Coca-Cola d. Alaska, 94-81
Game 2—Alaska d. Coca-Cola, 78-76

By June Navarro

A SECOND chance for Coca-Cola and a second time around for Alaska.

The Coca-Cola Tigers take another crack at the Samsung-PBA Invitational title tonight against Alaska's Aces who can end their eight-conference championship drought with a repeat victory at the Philsports Arena.

Odds are even in the 6 p.m. encounter that experts feel will be decided down the wire.

The Tigers, who lost the All Filipino title to Talk 'N Text a month ago by losing four straight games in the best-of-seven playoffs, won the opener impressively, 94-81, before the Aces forced tonight's rubber match with a 78-76 overtime decision.

Known for their triangle offense, the Aces abandoned their main weapon in Game 2 Wednesday and leaned heavily on their height and heft to deadlock the best-of-three series.

"We kinda abandon our triangle a little bit because Chot (Reyes) knows it so well," said Alaska coach Tim Cone Wednesday. "We just pounced on them in the inside and took advantage of our size. That's probably the way we're gonna go for the rest of the series."

Cone said his former Alaska players—Johnny Abarrientos, Edward Juinio and Jeffrey Cariaso—and Reyes, who once acted as his assistant coach in the early '90s, know the triangle like the palm of their hands.

"They even know the triangle than any of our players," said Cone, who created a dynasty in the '90s after winning nine PBA titles, including a rare grand slam in 1996 with Abarrientos, Juinio and Cariaso.

The Aces, whose last victory came in the 2000 All Filipino, will again rely mostly on Ali Peek and the 7-foot EJ Feihl, who are expected to dominate the Tigers inside.

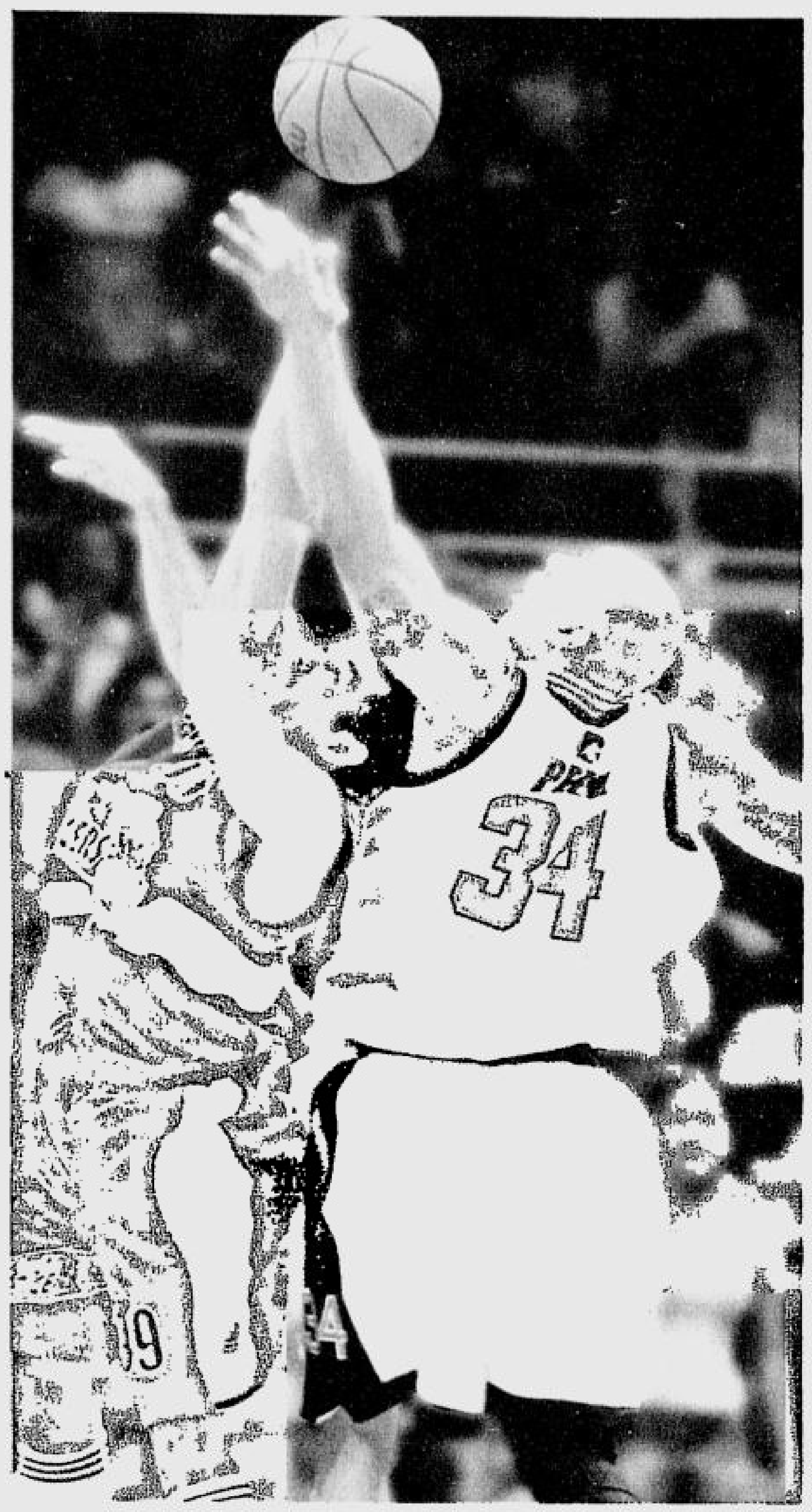
"Our advantage really is our big guys and that's where we're gonna go in Game 3. We have to get Ali and EJ involved all the time and hope their defense will open up for Mike (Cortez), John (Arigo) and everybody else," said Cone.

But with the Tigers' quickness, Cone admits the series is almost even.

He said today's battle will be a mirror of the personalities of both coaches.

"Since his playing days, Chot has been known for his quickness which he passed on to the team he has so far handled. It's been like that with Coca-Cola and Game 3 won't be any different," Cone explained during the SCOOP sa Kamayan session yesterday on West Avenue.

"Us, well, we are best known for our triangle offense. Organized and disciplined. They (Tigers) will try to run, pass and pressure us, but we hope to counter that with our systematic kind of game."



ALI Peek and Rudy Hatfield battle for the rebound in Game 2. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Adamson cagebelles rap Ateneo

ADAMSON flexed just enough muscle to down Ateneo, 66-57, Thursday and keep its unblemished record after the first round of the UAAP women's basketball championship.

Minerva Narciza topscored with 15 points and was dominating with 18 rebounds for the Lady Falcons, who rushed to their sixth straight win in the tournament staged right in their own gym in San Marcelino, Manila.

Three other Lady Falcons—Marites Gadian, Janeth Yanez and Jenalyn Constantino—finished with 10 points apiece.

Ateneo closed out the first round with three wins and three losses, the same slate of archrival La Salle, a 91-41 winner over University of the East.

University of the Philippines, led by the 14 points and nine rebounds of Maria Camille Dowling, beat Far Eastern University, 57-50, to run second with a 5-1 card.

In junior basketball play, Elmer dela Cruz of University of the East and Adamson's Jomar Canuday paced the race for top individual honors.

De la Cruz and Canuday tallied identical 77.33 statistical points after the first round, which ended last week.

Ateneo's Jen Barracoso stood third with 75.67 points, followed by Jay Leyga of University of Santo Tomas, fourth with 69.00 and another Blue Eaglet, Jose Reyes, fifth with 67.40.

Tierro knocks out Sabandon

SUBIC—Patrick John Tierro flashed his deadly form anew with a clinical 6-1, 6-4 defeat of No.10 Pop Sabandon to reach the semifinals of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit 2 yesterday at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center indoor court here.

Fresh off a stunning upset over fourth seed and Davis Cupper Rolando Ruel Jr., the 16th-ranked Tierro dished out winners after winners to advance against No.2 Joseph Victorino.

Victorino, another Davis Cupper who won the Philta Open last April, whipped Dapitan City's Rocky Paglalunan, 6-0, 6-3.

"I just played my usual game," said the 6-foot-1 Tierro, who lost to Sabandon in the first round of the PCA Open two years ago, 6-2, 6-0.

Earlier, top seed Johnny Arcilla stamped his class over fifth seed Alexander Lazaro, 6-3, 6-1, to forge a semifinal showdown with third seed Adelo Abadia, a 7-6 (2), 6-2 winner over unseeded Cebuano Jaime Solon.

Arcilla, eyeing his sixth straight title this year, defeated Abadia in the final of the first leg at the Manila Polo Club last June.

Meanwhile, tournament director Nani Jimenez announced that registration has opened for the third leg, slated Sept. 29 to Oct. 5, at the Xavier Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. For inquiries, call 525-6434.

DOJ yet to receive report on 8 Fil-fors

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHAT report?

This was the question Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong threw at the Bureau of Immigration yesterday as he denied a BI announcement it had already sent to the DOJ copies of a Senate report recommending the summary deportation of eight Fil-foreign PBA players for faking their citizenship.

"I have not seen any. That's my question to them," a surprised Datumanong told the INQUIRER.

"I do not act on something that is not yet on my table," he added.

Immigration executive secretary Roy Almario said Thursday he has a written a second letter to the DOJ which included copies of the Senate report on the eight cagers "for them to appreciate the details and appreciate the facts of the case."

Based on the findings of the committees on games, amusements and sports and constitutional amendments, the Senate recommended to the BI the deportation of Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Alaska's John Ordonio, Andy Siegle of Purefoods, Red Bull Barako's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano, and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer.

The DOJ first has to revoke its confirmation of the citizenship of the players before the deportation could be carried out.

Even Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said she has also not seen the Senate report sent by the BI. She said she would check on Monday if the DOJ's legal department has the report.

She said the DOJ will have to dig up the records of previous cases similar to the Fil-fors to find out the procedure on how to cancel the confirmation of the cagers' citizenship.

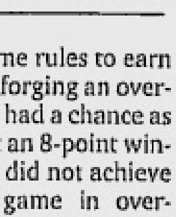
"The DOJ will see what necessary action should be done on this case. I have not seen any (report)," Gutierrez said, adding that she has not encountered a similar case at DOJ.

The immigration bureau, an agency under the DOJ, was given 30 days from the time the Senate asked the BI last week to institute deportation proceedings against the Fil-fors. The deadline falls on Sept. 12.

But BI officials said their hands are tied until the DOJ acts on the case.

Farce we have to face

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

MY line that Ariel Vanguardia and Talk 'N Text were simply being creative when they did what they did a while back drew harsh reactions from some quarters.

I don't mind. Goes with the territory. To validate that, I took soul mate Sol's counsel to heart: "You ought to be thankful. That means they take you seriously as a columnist. You stirred their minds to react. Whether favorable or not, you have to treat that as already a victory."

A columnist writes because he has an opinion to say. That separates him/her from the rest of journalism's practitioners.

I am flattered when some people use my opinion as a takeoff point to build a case that, in the end, would be venom-filled as it attempts to demolish my point of view, if not my person. I used to react to such kind of crap in a rather violent manner.

Not anymore. You mellow with time, they say.

So these days, I react by merely saying a little prayer: "Forgive them dear God for they know not what they are saying."

Forgiving has been a virtue worth keeping. And practicing. All my detractors, both past and present, I've forgiven with all my heart. If you can't forgive, how can God forgive you?

There is no such banana as conditional forgiving. It's either you forgive or you don't. To forgive is divine, to err is human *di ba*?

There is no such banana as conditional apology. It's either you apologize or you don't. Saying sorry has to be unconditional for it to have efficacy. Admitting a mistake makes one a truer person than the Pope.

Going back to Vanguardia and TNT, I still honestly believe they don't deserve the fines and penalties meted out on them.

Look, Red Bull Barako wanted to lose to TNT. It manifested that desire by deliberately missing a free throw. When Red Bull achieved its goal—losing to TNT by one point—did it receive a penalty, a fine? No.

Look, TNT wanted to win against Red Bull Barako. It manifested that desire by deliberately breaking some rules to earn technicals in the hope of forging an overtime, the period where it had a chance as wide as the ocean to post an 8-point winning margin. When TNT did not achieve its goal—winning the game in overtime—did TNT get penalized, fined? Yes.

Now, where is justice there?

Red Bull got away with its intention—that is, to intentionally lose the game—and it received no penalty, fine.

TNT did not get away with its intention—that is, to win the game with all its might—and it got penalized, fined.

Now, where is logic there?

Isn't trying to lose the game the No. 1 crime in any sporting event? What more with consummating the crime?

Isn't trying to win the game the most noble of all aspects in any sporting event? TNT failed and instead of being cheered for a gallant stand, it got jeered by the league's supposed No. 1 applauder.

The referees have punished TNT for shooting baskets at the opponent's goal and for which I totally agree. The illegal acts have each a corresponding penalty (turnover) that the referees had properly enforced. It would have been wrong had the referees not meted out the penalties.

The referees, too, had enforced the right penalty on Vanguardia when Vanguardia ordered a timeout when TNT had no more timeout to call: A free throw for Red Bull Barako. Had the referees not done that, the game would have taken a totally weird ending.

What I am saying is, if the referees did not impose the penalties, either by design or not, that would have been the truly farcical side of that now infamous game.

But they did. And it should have ended there.

Why the commissioner's office found it proper to fine TNT P250,000 and suspend Vanguardia for five games plus a P5,000 fine is the farce we will now have to face the rest of our lives. The funny thing is, TNT and Vanguardia got punished for merely trying to win a game in response to the spirit of a format that was as farcical as its creator himself.

Again, only in the Philippines.

***

FASTBREAK. Reader Jose Maria E. Peteza of Naga City's Development Bank of the Philippines wrote: "In your Special Project issue on July 12, you said the UAAP was formed in 1938. Because of World War II, you mentioned that the UAAP was suspended in 1940-41 and 1945-46. The UAAP should therefore be celebrating this year its 61st season and not 66th as mentioned in the article." Noted, Sir.

Rosales, Que named to RP W'Cup team

GERALD Rosales and rookie pro Angelo Que will represent the Philippines in the World Cup qualifying event organized by the Asian PGA on Sept. 18-21 at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club in Singapore.

Rosales, the former Philippine Open champion who turns 27 tomorrow, and Que, 24, will form one of the youngest teams ever to see action in the World Cup qualifier.

The Philippine duo who trains at the same Manila Southwoods facility and under the same swing coach Bong Lopez will be one of at least 20 teams which will dispute the four slots at stake for the World Cup tournament proper slated at the Kiawah Island course in South Carolina on Nov. 13-16.

Que's slot was actually reserved for Frankie Miñoza under the eligibility rules which seeds the top two players of each country based either on his world or APGA Tour ranking. But Miñoza declined the slot. *Jong Arcano*

Paro, Gorres topbill Aug. 30 Cebu card

UNBEATEN RP no. 4 superfly Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro and RP no. 1 flyweight Z "The Dream" Gorres take on separate rivals in the "Explosion at the Mall" promotion on Aug. 30 at the Gaisano Countrymall carpark.

The 20-year-old Paro, fighting out of the Ala-Elorde Stable and parading an unblemished record of 11 wins with 7 KO's, faces veteran RP no. 6 superfly Jun Pader in the top 10-round fight. If victorious, the Marty Elorde-managed Paro gets a chance to challenge newly crowned superfly champion Ramie Laput sometime in the last week of October or early November. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

ALTAR-BOUND Curtis celebrates a birdie on No. 10. AP

Curtis, Garcia share lead

Woods 1 shot adrift

AKRON, Ohio—British Open champion Ben Curtis has a chance to make history again, this time as the only guy to start a golf tournament as a bachelor and win it as a husband.

Two days away from his wedding, Curtis took his mind off matrimony long enough Thursday to post his best score on the PGA Tour, a 6-under 64 that gave him a share of the lead with Sergio Garcia in the NEC Invitational.

Tiger Woods, who has won the last three times at Firestone, shot a 65 and was impressed that Curtis was able to play this well with so many distractions around him.

"Let's just say if he's in contention, I want to see how tired he is on Sunday morning," Woods said with a laugh.

The wedding originally was scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday in the suburb of Stow, about a 30-minute drive from Firestone.

Of course, the invitations were mailed before Curtis, a 500-1 long shot, won the British Open and became the first player in 90 years to win a major championship in his first try.

He figured he still could play and make it to the chapel on time.

He never counted on leading a World Golf Championship the week of his wedding.

Curtis hit a 9-iron just inches from the cup on No. 18 for a tap-in birdie, and saw his fiancee, Candace Beatty, and several members of the wedding party behind the green.

"She was smiling and cheering away," Curtis said. "I think she's going to say, 'Well, the rehearsal dinner (Friday night) might be pushed back a little bit,' but I think she'll be happy.

"This will be the best week of my life no matter what I shoot."

It sure wasn't a bad start.

Curtis missed the cut last week in the PGA Championship, and while he has played Firestone about 20 times, no one expected much out of him this week with so much weighing on his mind.

The rehearsal Friday. The wedding Saturday. A world-class field all around him.

"It's kind of funny," Curtis said. "When you tell yourself to not worry about it, to just have fun, you go out there and play really good. A lot of times, you want to play good and you get tense. I was having fun, and the hole just seemed like it got bigger and bigger."

Garcia also missed the cut at Oak Hill last week, although his game has slowly been turning around. *AP*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 046

Schumi the way

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True /☐ False: Michael Schumacher was born in Switzerland.

2 > 5 Pts.

Apart from Schumi, Schumacher is fondly called by what nickname?

☐ Schuey
☐ Machy

3 > 7 Pts.

How many times has Schumacher won the Formula One world championship?

☐ Five
☐ Six
☐ Seven

4 > 10 Pts.

How tall is Schumacher?

☐ 5'8"
☐ 5'10"
☐ 6'1"

5 > 20 Pts.

To whom did Schumacher dedicate his first world title in 1994, saying this other star driver "deserved to get it"?

☐ Alain Prost (France)
☐ Damon Hill (England)
☐ Ayrton Senna (Brazil)
☐ Ralf Schumacher (Germany)

6 > 25 Pts.

Schumacher posted his first Formula One victory in 1992 at which racing circuit?

☐ Silverstone
☐ Nurburgring
☐ Monte Carlo
☐ Spa-Francorchamps

7 > 30 Pts.

Winning words: Complete the title of Schumi's autobiography published in 1997: "Michael Schumacher: _______ for Success."

ANSWERS/ A28

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: Tournament of the Americas-USA vs Venezuela; 10 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); IBC 13 and Solar Sports; Argentina vs Canada; 6 p.m.; Solar Sports—The action continues in Puerto Rico as the Americans take on the Venezuelans while Argentina and Canada engage in a south-north battle. NBA Greatest Games-Bulls vs Knicks, Game 6, 1989 Eastern Semifinals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Michael Jordan and Chicago face Patrick Ewing and New York as they battle for a chance to meet Detroit in the Eastern Finals.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying; 9 a.m. (r), 1 p.m. (r) and 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports—The race for pole position continues in Budapest.

BASEBALL: MLB-Braves vs Rockies; 9 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Atlanta heads to Denver as its meets Colorado in this NL match-up.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Coke Champions Clinic in Dagupan tomorrow

REYES

THE COCA-COLA Tigers will impart their skills to participants when the Coca-Cola Champions Basketball Clinic goes to Lyceum Northwestern University in Dagupan City tomorrow.

Former PBA MVP Johnny Abarrientos will handle the ball handling station; Jeffrey Cariaso and Leo Avenido the individual moves station; Freddie Abuda and Poch Juinio the post defense mechanics and Rudy Hatfield and Rafi Reavis the rebounding station.

Will Antonio and Rob Wainwright are in charge of the shooting station while Ato Morano and Gec Chia will handle the perimeter defense mechanics.

Tigers Coach Chot Reyes will supervise the clinic patterned after the "station-type" teaching methodology used by major basketball clinics in the United States.

Assisting Reyes are United States Basketball Academy certified mentors Biboy Ravanes, Nash Racela, Aboy Castro, Binky Favis, Koy Banal and Jude Roque.

The clinic is part of Coca-Cola's integrated Healthy and Active Lifestyle (HAL) program. Endorsed by the Department of Health, HAL advocates positive changes in the lives of the youth.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. El Montruo 2. Strong Colony 3. Hezabellagio
Race 2—1. Something Perfect 2. Simply Content 3. Nasaan Ka Irog 4. Don Miguel 5. Sweet Paula
Race 3—1 Sumasagitsit 2 Fortius 3. Musikero 4. Eye of the Day
Race 4—1. Michael's Way 2. Color of the Wind 3. Opening Prospect 4. Sahib Singh 5. St. Emilion
Race 5—1. Earl Gray 2. E Mail 3. Fortissimo 4. Day and Night 5. Friendly Venture
Race 6—1. Ocean Magic 2. Suterian Era 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Diskrate 5. Traktora
Race 7—1. Hale and Hearty 2. Profit Master 3. Saguittarius 4. Yonder Girl 5. Sniper
Race 8—1. Super Dancer 2. Dulce My Love 3. Slip Away 4. Mercurian/Expediter 5 Mr. Lucas
Race 9—1. Kayang Kaya/Crystal Show 2. Gifted Guest 3. Cosanne 4. All for Glory 5. Hacker
Race 10—1. Dona Gelay 2. Galil 3. Hezagonebabes 4. Bridegroom 5. King Asa
Race 11—1. Bronte 2. Cause of Our Joy 3. Awesome Power 4. Gifted Angel 5. Naughty
Race 12—1. Masagana 2. Absurd 3. Fancy Free 4. King Yoji 5. Yours Truly
Race 13—1. Good Partner 2. Candid 3. Hinobaan Boy 4. Prop A Ganda 5. Onbee 6. Assunta de Rio

Smartan SANDALS

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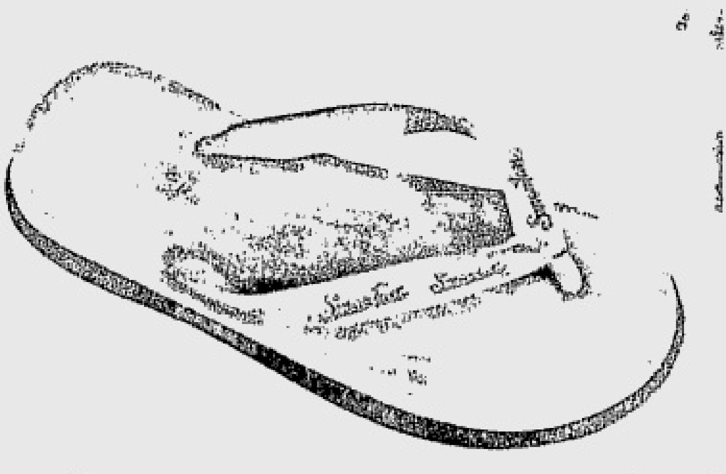

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Feel the magic as the world's greatest cue masters compete for supremacy on IBC Ch.13

TONITE at 9 Chin-shun Yang (Tpe) vs. Sandor Tot (Hun)
Lee Vann Corteza (Phil) vs. Kevin Smith (Eng)

August 24 at 8:00 pm Alex Pagulayan (Can) vs. Ceri Worts (NZL)
Bata Reyes (Phil) vs. Radoslaw Babica (Pol)

August 25 at 7:00 pm Fong-pang Chao (Tpe) vs. Neils Feijen (Ned)
Leo Vann Corteza (Phil) vs. Corey Deuel (USA)

August 26 at 7:00 pm Mika Immonen (Fin) vs. Rob McKenna (USA)
Nikoy Lining (Phil) vs. Nick Varner (USA)

*Succeeding matches to be announced.

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SPORTSWATCH

TV, movie stars vie in badminton

TV, movie and sports personalities, including Angela Velez, Glydel Mercado, Maritoni Fernandez and Chiqui Roa, provide the glitter and luster in the JVC Open Badminton Championships which fires off August 25 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati. Four teams of six players will compete in the round-robin celebrity tournament with the winner getting P60,000. Roa heads Team A that includes Anthony Suntay, Patrick dela Rosa, Chicco Garcia, Glenda Garcia and Mariz Ricketts, while Fernandez anchors Team B composed of Hans Montenegro, Ricky Davao, Ricardo Cepeda, Apples Aberin and Gem Padilla. Mercado joins Tonton Gutierrez, Maribeth Bichara and the brother-sister tandem of Ruby and Raffy Rodriguez in Team C, while Velez leads Team D composed of Marc Nelson, Dennis Salud, Cody Moreno and the sister-pair of Dyan and Jackie Castillejo.

Shell Challenge visits Cabanatuan

THE SEARCH for this year's best public utility drivers goes to Central Luzon this weekend with the staging of the 2003 Shell Tricycle King and Jeepney King Challenge in Cabanatuan City. The competition is entering its ninth leg, with four other legs to go before the December 13 national finals in Manila. Bryan Nazareno, Shell's area manager for Nueva Ecija, said organizers are expecting to break the record in the number of participants in the Tricycle King Challenge. With its 17,000 plus registered tricycles, Cabanatuan posted the former record of 700-plus participants in 2001, a feat surpassed by Cauayan, Isabela's 900 last year.

Lim-Ng pair tops sportsfishing meet

EDMUND Lim and Antonio Ng prevailed over Bong Nery Jr. and Rolly Buensalida and Judes Echauz and Tina Bernasconi in the AAD sportsfishing tournament of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation in Calatagan, Batangas last weekend. The team of Lim, president of Giant Mercantile, and Ng decked 21 fish weighing 16.996 kg (jacks, snappers, lapu-lapu and triggerfish). The Nery-Buensalida team scored 8.727 kg and the Echauz-Bernasconi pair tallied 8.317 kg. Danny Olanosa hooked the heaviest fish, a 4.090-kg garapeche, among the 74 kg of fish caught by 35 anglers in the two-day light tackle (max. 12-lb line) event.

Christian schools league opens today

THE CHRISTIAN Schools Athletic League opens its fourth season in the School of Tomorrow gym in Parañaque today with 200 athletes from five schools battling it out in as many sports. The Shekinah Christian Training Center, last year's overall champion, will defend its title against the rest of the schools participating in this year's league. The Master's Academy of Alabang will also defend its basketball championship. A basketball game between Christian Harvest and Philippine Christian School of Tomorrow will jumpstart the tournament today. In volleyball, defending champion Shekinah will go up against Master's Academy.

UP booters rout depleted Ateneo

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines showed no mercy against depleted Ateneo and prevailed, 5-1, in its Ang Liga football cup debut yesterday at the San Beda, Mendiola pitch. With Ateneo missing starting goalkeeper Miguel Villadolid and three other players, UP attacked without let-up and surged to a 2-0 lead courtesy of fleet-footed striker Ariel Zerrudo. UP, with coaches Bob Salvacion and Kleng Cacacho barking instructions, pulled away in the second half behind Andres Gonzales, Raul Grapilon and Zerrudo, who completed a hat trick. Ateneo got its sole goal from a direct kick by midfielder Evan Santos in the 55th minute. Sans Villadolid, Ateneo coach Ompong Merida used defender Alvin Perez as keeper to no avail.

Roligon 4-cocker slates over 100 fights

MORE than 100 fights have been lined up in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Habol sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby" which starts at 2 p.m. today. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a guaranteed prize of P500,000 for an entry fee of P6,600. Aside from the P40,000 prize for handler and P20,000 to gaffer, also up for grabs are P50,000 for fastest kill champion, P20,000 for fastest kill champion handler and P10,000 for fastest kill champion gaffer. Among those competing are Pol Garde, lawyers Virgilio Manguera and Romero Yu, William Go, Rodrigo Villarubio, Boy Marzo, Johnny Elorde, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and Jimmyton Araneta. Meanwhile, the annual "Ray Showdown National 7-Stag Derby," will be held on Sept. 2 and 4. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Final screening of derby entries

FINAL screening of entries in Las Piñas Cockpit's "LPC Annual 6-Stag Derby" will be held today and tomorrow, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Backed by Pagcor—Casino Filipino Parañaque and Lakpue Drug Inc., the event is scheduled on Monday and Wednesday, Aug. 25 and 27. At stake is P1 million while entry fee is P15,000. Stags with UCAP and NCA wingbands are automatically accepted. Submission of weights is on Monday, from 7 a.m. to noon. Contact 873-1040 for details. Part of derby proceeds will go to the Clean and Green project Las Piñas City mayor Nene Aguilar.

RP-Cebuana Lhuillier to join HK tilt

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier-RP Team will have another opportunity to scout the opposition in the Asian Basketball Confederation and Southeast Asian Games when it sees action in the 12th Super Kung Sheung Heyuan Cup Basketball Invitation Championship in Hong Kong from August 26-31. Six teams from the Philippines, China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and host Hong Kong are vying in the tournament. The Cebuana Lhuillier-RP Team is bracketed with Thailand and Malaysia. The Filipinos face the Malaysians on August 27 and Thailand the next day. Both games are scheduled at 7 p.m. at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. Businessman and sports enthusiast Jean Henri Lhuillier is the team manager.

Young cagers seek maximum potential

NEARLY 50 young and talented basketball players from Cebu, Davao, Pampanga and Metro Manila came together in the Nike Hot House training camp held at the RFM Gym in Mandaluyong recently. As part of Nike's Maximum Potential campaign, basketball teams from all over the country battled it out for the top six slots and proved themselves worthy of participating in the two-day basketball camp facilitated by Nike basketball coaches. Red Bull skills coach Kirk Collier, Red Bull coach and former PBL commissioner Yeng Guiao and Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua helped players improve their game by brushing up on the basics and teaching new skills. The Nike Hot House experience prepared the young athletes for the Battleground Asia 5-on-5 finals held August 17 at the Festival Mall in Alabang. These events culminated Nike's Maximum Potential campaign.

COACH Alfrancis Chua (left) teaches young basketball players defensive moves during the recent Nike Hot House training camp at the RFM Gym in Mandaluyong.

Watch... Corporate Billiard League
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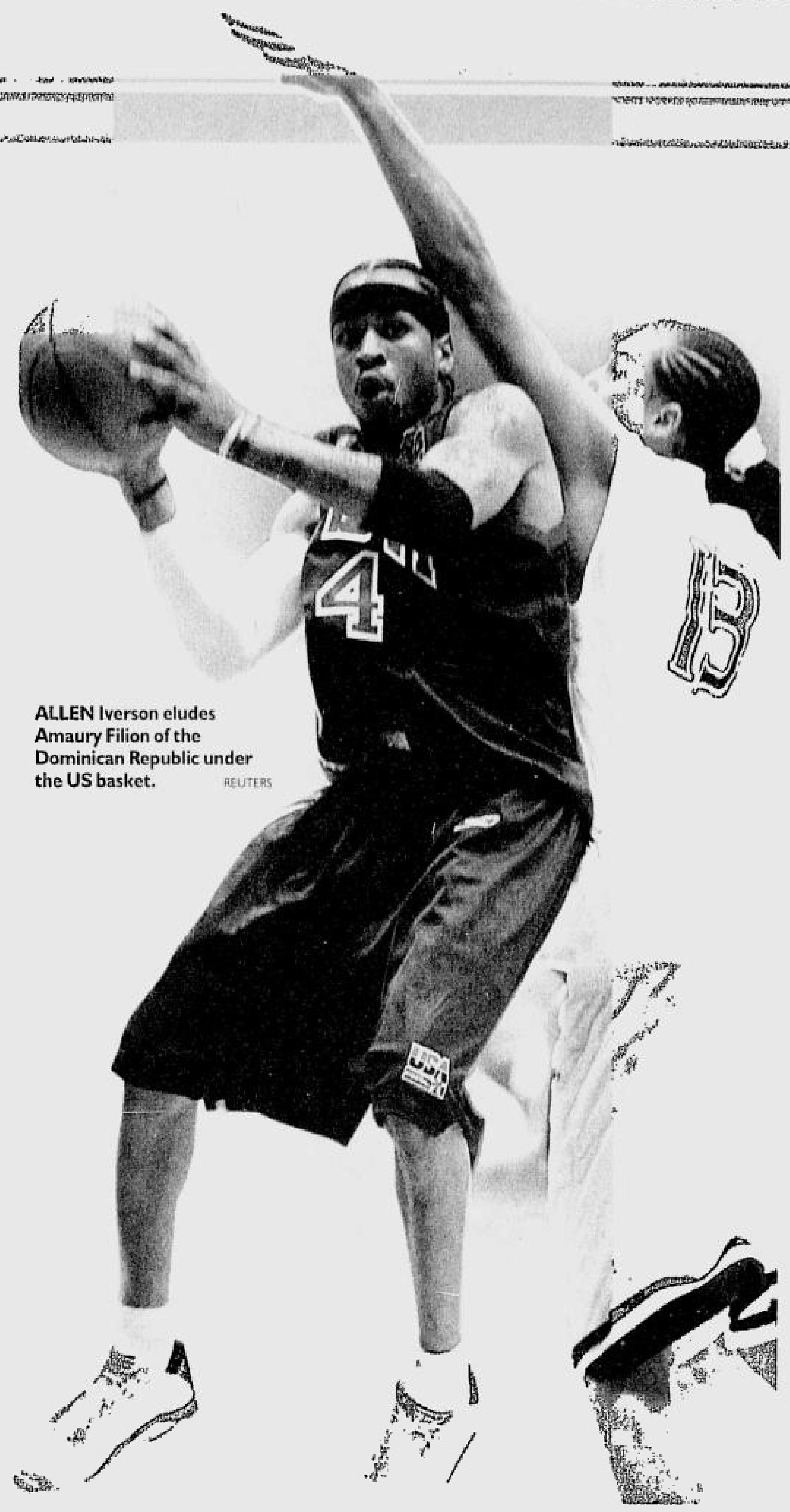

ALLEN Iverson eludes Amaury Filion of the Dominican Republic under the US basket. REUTERS

Carter s as Team rip Dom

SAN JUAN—Vince Carter keyed a first-half charge Thursday as the United States routed the Dominican Republic 111-73 in the FIBA Olympic basketball qualifying tournament of the Americas.

The Dominicans—one of just two teams in this tournament with no players with National Basketball Association experience—briefly led the powerful US squad, 25-20 in the first quarter after US swingman Tracy McGrady missed four straight free throws.

But the US reeled off 18 straight points to take total control early in the second period.

Carter, the Toronto Raptors swingman, soared for a dunk, then made another seconds later for a 42-28 lead. He drilled 3-pointers on consecutive possessions before capping another signature international moment.

Allen Iverson sped down the middle of the court and whipped a behind-the-back pass to Jason Kidd, who lobbed a pass off the backboard. Trailing from the right wing, Carter soared for the carom and hammered it home, making it 52-32 with 3:32 remaining.

Although not as awe-inspiring as Carter's dunk in the 2000

VINCE Carter, Tin
the bench with the

Olympics, when
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Carter finished
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Capriati survives in-form Pistolesi,

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Jennifer Capriati ended the 12-match winning streak of Israeli Anna Pistolesi to reach the semifinals of the Pilot Pen event with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 victory on Thursday.

The third-seeded American will next face Amelie Mauresmo of France after the number two seed beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama, 6-4, 6-4.

The other semifinal will be between top seed Lindsay Davenport, who eased past Magui Serna of Spain, 6-0, 7-5, and Russia's Elena Dementieva, who trounced Cara Black of Zimbabwe, 6-1, 6-1.

Capriati took almost two hours for her victory and was stretched by an opponent who has recently won titles in Poland and Finland.

After dominating the opening exchanges, breaking serve twice to love and dropping just four points in the first four games, Capriati increasingly found herself pulled into long and draining baseline rallies.

Having taken two hours 11-minutes to beat Elena Bovina on Wednesday night, the last thing Capriati wanted was a long match in the midday heat—especially so close to next week's US Open.

But Pistolesi prevented Capriati from attacking with big shots from the baseline and made the American fight through 20 and 30 stroke rallies.

Pistolesi needed two chances to take the second set, blowing the first by hitting three consecutive double-faults to drop her serve afte
to lead 5-3.

But she made no mistake
ond opportunity, breaking a
by forcing a backhand error.

"She fights for every ball
for everything," Capriati sai

Mauresmo struggled to fi
sistency against Sugiyama,
battle to pull out the secon
her eighth-seeded opponen
lead 2-0 and then led 4-1 an
on the Frenchwoman's serv

Sampras returns to bid adieu

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras will return to a tennis court one last time—to say goodbye.

The owner of a record 14 Grand Slam singles titles hasn't played a match since winning the 2002 US Open, though he never officially announced he was quitting the sport.

That will change at a news conference Monday, when Sampras also will be feted at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the opening night of this year's US Open.

In keeping with Sampras' muted public style, the news came via an e-mailed statement from his representatives Thursday.

"He was just one of the most graceful players of all time, one of the most quietly competitive players of all time, one of the best pressure players of all time," said Andy Roddick. "The bigger the match was, the better he played. And he didn't make a big fuss about things. He just made his name by winning."

Sampras, 32, leaves with 64 singles titles, and he was ranked No. 1 a record six years (1993-98). His collection of major titles includes a record-tying seven Wimbledons, five US Opens and two Australian Opens.

He forever will be associated with the All England Club, where his strong serve, crisp volleys and booming forehand made him nearly unbeatable on grass.

In July 2000, Sampras won a fourth straight Wimbledon to break Roy Emerson's career mark of 12 major titles. After beating Patrick Rafter in the final, Sampras—tears glistening in his eyes—looked into the stands for his parents, who never before had been present for one of his Grand Slam victories. AP

PETE'S goodbye AP

Federation golf Final 4 under way

AFTER finding the short route to the semifinals, defending champion Manila Golf Club and Forest Hills start what could be a long and rough journey to the title playoffs when they battle dangerous foes today in the Final Four of the Federation Golf League.

Manila Golf Club (MGC) will be hosting Riviera while the powerhouse Forest Hills squad will be visiting Alabang in the first half of the home-and-away semifinal showdowns which will determine the protagonists in next week's championship match.

MGC will be at Riviera and Forest hosts Alabang in the Sunday matches.

The intermittent rains the past week have softened the fairways of all Metro Manila courses and this certainly adds to the excitement as the difficult conditions can neutralize the home course advantage.

Manila Golf and Forest Hills, which grabbed the two outright semis slots for the best records in the eliminations, are actually eyeing a rematch after last year's hotly contested semifinals which the Forbes Park golfers eventually won.

Forest is eyeing a third straight trip to the finals and a second title since its 2001 victory.

Alabang and Riviera are riding the momentum of their quarterfinal victories and this can spell trouble for their rivals idle for the past week or so.

2 more teams show wares in billiards league

TWO more teams—Ginebra Kapitan and Nikon electric fan—will battle each other in a knockout match for a semifinals seat today in the Corporate Billiards League (CBL), the country's first major billiards league, at the Robinson's Galleria.

The match will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network at 8-9 p.m. today with hosts Danny Romero and revered billiards analyst Recah Trinidad.

The winning team will join Beer na Beer into the next round of this event sponsored by Tanduay The No. 1 Rhum with the support of Rommel's Billiards, the official table.

The two teams will battle each other in a race-to-7, sudden death knockout quarterfinals, with the winner advancing to the single round semifinals.

Ginebra Kapitan, with German Open champion Gaga Gabica as team captain, is favored to prevail over Nikon Electric Fans. Gabica will be backed by Asian trickshot champion Julie Falcon and Allan Dulao, tagged as Tirador ng Cotabato.

Nikon will be bannered by Monching Mistica, the country's first professional billiards trainer, and Christian Serna in its quest for the coveted crown and the P100,000 purse.

With Imarflex skipper Lee Van Corteza out of contention, only seven big names were left. Aside from Gabica, Mistica and Falcon, the other big-name players seeking finals slots are Asian gold medalist Snooky Villanueva, top European player Marcus Chamat, No.1 Asian snooker Marlon Manalo, Southeast Asian Games silver medalist Venancio Tanyo, Cebu and Manila Open champion Dennis Orcullo, RP No. 2 Snooker Al Ortega.

Patterned after the alternating shot, alternating break format of the prestigious Mosconi Cup, this brainchild of Tanduay Distillers advertising manager Larry Li is aimed at uplifting billiards as a major sports spectacle in the country.

The six other quarterfinalists in the initial staging of this event are Beer na Beer, Imarflex, LBC, Accel, Toby's and Skyflakes.

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Duncan and Richard Jefferson in a light banter on game in US control. REUTERS

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ploded for 32
while Eddie

Casiano made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points for Puerto Rico.

Argentina got back on track with a 91-60 Group A trouncing of Uruguay. One day after a surprising loss to Mexico, the Argentines shot 58 percent, including 10-of-19 from three-point range.

Brazil gave the Virgin Islands a rude introduction to the tournament with a 100-74 Group B win.

AFP

(Solar Sports will air the US-Venezuela game "live" at 10 a.m. on Channel 29 today. The replay will be at 5 p.m. on Channel 29 and IBC-13. Team USA will meet the Virgin Islands on Sunday and the game will also be shown "live" on Channel 29 at 10 a.m.)

gains semis

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But the second seed broke back in the seventh game, saved a break point before holding for 4-4 and then broke to lead 5-4 with a crosscourt backhand.

Mauresmo closed out the match by winning five straight games, hitting a disputed ace on the final point.

Davenport swept the first set against Serna in 16 minutes for the loss of just five points, but the second set was much more evenly balanced.

Reuters

Macatangay, Tambogon gain jungolf berths

JAN Coup Tambogon upstaged the more seasoned players when he topped the recent 18-hole qualifying for next month's Asean Junior Golf Championships in Malaysia at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Tambogon, a member of the Villamor team playing out of the Pasay City High, showed up the horde of veteran internationalists in the field with a five-over-par 77.

La Salle-Lipa's Terence Macatangay, scoring a 79, secured the other boys slot in the RP team that will compete in the Asean tilt slated Sept. 10-12 at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Geleen Handog was the lone entry in the girls division and is also assured of a slot.

Meanwhile, Marlo Capinianes topped the Class A (15-17 years) bracket of August leg of the school season series.

Other boys division winners were IG Gutierrez in Class B (13-14), Yoon Sung-bin in Class C (11-12), Nicklas Ekegren in Class D (9-10), Jason Buen in Class E (8-under) and Justin Dy in the 6-under class. Girls division champions included Cyna Marie Rodriguez in Class C, Andrea Legaspi in Class D, Felicia Medalla in Class E and Janella Buen (6-under).

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS From page A27

1. False (He was born in Hurth, Germany, but now lives in Switzerland, on the banks of Lake Geneva) 2. Schuey 3. Five (1994, 1995, 2000, 2001 and 2002) 4. 5'8" 5. Ayrton Senna (who died in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix earlier in the season) 6. Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium) 7. "Formula"

LUZVIMIN GOLF

De Guzman foils Roberto bid

DE GUZMAN PDI PHOTO

MANILA Southwoods ran away with the Diamond division crown as expected even as Canlubang's Lina de Guzman denied the back-to-back bid of Lora Roberto for the overall individual title at the close yesterday of the 11th WGAP Luzvimin Invitational golf tournament in Cebu.

De Guzman closed out with a three-over-par 74 equivalent to 51 points for a 151 aggregate, finishing six ahead of Southwoods bet Roberto (48-145) and seven up on Carmelette Villaroman (47-144) at the Cebu Country Club.

Southwoods (180-532) scored a 42-point win over the Stephanie Yu-led Wack Wack (166-490) in the team event of the 54-hole tourney sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, San Miguel, Coca-Cola and Philippine Airlines as the official carrier.

Canlubang placed third at 484, Sta. Elena fourth at 472 and Del Monte 464.

Neighbors Negros and Bacolod provided the excitement that was sorely missing in the Diamond division when they figured in a tie-break for the Ruby crown after wounding up with similar 428 totals.

Negros went home with the title due to its six birdies against the four of Bacolod. Navy wound up a far third at 409.

Gabby Monfort, Maita Lustre, Joan Rojas, Regina Zulueta, Josephine Go and Joyce Cuenca made up the Negros squad.

The Pearl division diadem went to Camp Aguinaldo. Malou Belandres completed her big stint for Agui with 38 points, leading her team to a seven-point win. Other members of the Aguinaldo team were Edith Apuya, Maline Flores, Belen Ampong, Artie Mediana and Jo Cabrieto.

Completing the individual winners were Villamor's Josephine Barredo in Class A, Kathleen Uy of Bacolod in Class B and Melanie Villar of Alabang in Class C.

Miñoza clan heads entries in Samsung amateur

THE MIÑOZA clan of golfers leads the full-packed entry roster for the third leg of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour and Putting Challenge slated August 30-31 at the picturesque Pueblo de Oro golf and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro.

Brothers Ben and Paul Miñoza, sister Eva and a number of relatives will lead the cast for the big weekend at Pueblo where the maximum 120-player registry is expected to be easily breached according to Pueblo de Oro golf director Clifford Celdran.

Paul, who teamed up with elder brother Raul to win the National pro-am last year and became a member of the 2002 Putra Cup squad, and Ben are entered in the championship division along with the other members of the vaunted Del Monte team.

Eva should be one of the players to beat in the women's Class A category.

There will be separate battles for players in Class A, Class B, Class C in the men's division and women's Class B in the two-in-one tourney which will also feature the Samsung Putting Challenge.

Winners in the Amateur Tour will go home with a television set, the runners-up a DVD system and the third-placers a microwave oven. Putting winners will also receive exciting appliances from Samsung.

Co-sponsors of the event are Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers and Dunlop Golf with radio stations Killer Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as official media partners.

"We have been told of the tremendous response from local golfers as well as those from nearby cities like Davao. The Pueblo stop is shaping up to be the biggest in the south," said Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group.

The Samsung nationwide circuit is a tournament where not just scratch players get the chance to compete but golfers in all skill levels for both sexes.

Interested parties may call the PSMG office at 653-0010 or 631-5788 or sign up at the host club. All participants are required to submit a certified handicap from their golf club using a USGA handicapping system (IPI or NGAP).

Winners will qualify for the national grand finals slated at the Mt. Malarayat Golf Club in Lipa, Batangas next year.

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Paragua beats Croatian GM

Standings after round 8:

6.5 points—IM Mark Paragua, IM Yuri Gonzales (Cuba), IM Frank de la Paz (Cuba); 6.0 points—GM Viktor Moskalenko (Ukraine), GM Heikki Kallio (Finland), GM Jose Luis Fernandez Garcia (Spain), IM Fernando Peralta (Argentina), IM Roland Berzinsh (Latvia), IM Rodney Perez (Cuba), IM Petr Velicka (Czech Republic), Dmitry Frolyanov (Russia)

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua defeated Nice champion and Croatian Grandmaster Davor Komljenovic in the eighth and penultimate round to boost his title chances in the 1st International Del Solsones chess championship Thursday night at the Solsona Gymnasium in Cataluna, Spain.

The undefeated 19-year-old Paragua now has 6.5 points, sharing the lead with Cuban IMs Yuri Gonzales and Frank de la Paz, who drew their match.

In Friday's ninth round, Paragua targets the title against Gonzales while de la Paz battles Dmitry Frolyanov of Russia.

Whether he emerges champion, however, Paragua will again miss his second Grandmaster result as he has fought only two GMS instead of the required three.

Frolyanov defeated another RP entry IM Joseph Sanchez in round eight.

Frolyanov improved to 6 points in the company of GM Viktor Moskalenko of Ukraine, GM Heikki Kallio of Finland, GM Jose Luis Fernandez Garcia of Spain, IM Fernando Peralta of Argentina, IM Roland Berzinsh of Latvia, IM Rodney Perez of Cuba and IM Petr Velicka of Czech Republic.

Sanchez suffered his second straight defeat and remained at 5 points, good for a tie for the 19th to 31st places. His final assignment is Spanish GM Lluis Comas Fabrego. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

PARAGUA: Targets title against Cuban.

The running tourist of Milo Marathon

Taiwanese wife finds unique way to see the Philippines

PEOPLE join the marathon for all sorts of reasons. Some run to stay fit. Some run because it's fun. And some run for the glory of winning.

But for Anne Chang, a Taiwanese now living in Manila, the National Milo Marathon is a golden chance for her to see the Philippines.

"I love this place," she said of Davao City when she visited it for the first time last Aug. 3 to join the 20-km regional elimination leg of the Milo Marathon. "The people are friendly and the food is great."

Anne is not the athletic type, but ever since joining the 42-km Manila leg of the annual race in July last year, she had become a regular fixture in many marathon events. She learned about the marathon through the Greenhills Running Club, during her early morning running exercises.

"The first time I ran in the Milo Marathon, it was a full marathon in Manila last year," Anne recalled. "It was silly of me to run 42 kilometers in my first try but I'm still here because I am committed. Now I've learned my lesson, I know now how to pace myself."

Anne clocked two hours and 11 minutes for the 20K in Davao. And although she was still catching her breath at the finish line, she managed to smile at the race officials at the finish line.

"I'm improving," she said. "My (old) time here (20K) is two (hours and) 30 (minutes). I made it two-11. Maybe next time I can break the two-hour mark."

After the Davao leg, Anne went to Olongapo City last Aug. 17 to join the Central Luzon leg. There, Anne broke the two-hour mark for the first time despite the uphill course.

"Forty percent of the course was uphill but I felt great," she said after completing the course in 1:59:45, good for seventh place.

"Maybe I will run in the Butuan City leg next week," she added.

Anne, who is married to Procter & Gamble Philippines president Johnip G. Cua, is also slated to join the Flora Marathon in Sydney, Australia in September. And after more sightseeing Down Under, she will return to Manila in October for the 2003 Milo Marathon finale where she will run as an international entry.

"For the next two months I am very busy. Everything is scheduled. And after that, no more. I'll run again next year," she said. "There are still a lot of places in the Philippines that I want to visit."

TIAWANESE Anne Chang is met at the finish line in Olongapo City by Milo Marathon race organizer Rudy Biscocho (right).

Anne has been based in Manila since 1992. After 10 years, she realized that she still does not know her home away from home. That is why she wanted to hop around the islands to visit the country's famous scenic spots. And on the side, she runs the marathon because she wants to stay fit.

In Olongapo, Anne brought her Filipino-Chinese friend, Joan Tiu, who crossed the finish line some 20 minutes behind her.

"I am not really a marathoner," Joan confessed. "But my time here is not bad. I had a great time."

Running enthusiasts who make the Milo Marathon, now held in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Adidas, Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, MyGlobe and Powerbar, as a reason to tour the key cities in the country is not a new concept, according to race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

Laarni Bernabe, a lawyer, ran in the 20K event in Lipa City last July 12 and again in Olongapo City last Sunday. She has already cleared her schedule in the first weekend of September for the Baguio City leg of this popular foot race.

"We have runners like Rey de Leon, Rene Dado, Susan Paraguya, Joy Paguio and Jimmy Tayag who join the event, especially for the legs in Luzon, not really to compete but just to run and have fun," said Biscocho.

The Milo Marathon, now on its 27th year, means a lot to many people. Unwittingly, it has also become a major boost for domestic tourism.

Butuan City qualifier fires off tomorrow

BUTUAN City in Agusan del Norte joins the growing list of regional hosts of the National Milo Marathon when it hosts tomorrow morning the ninth elimination run of this year's biggest annual road running program.

With the chance of becoming a part of a historic race as extra come-on, Pat Goc-ong, Milo Sports executive who is overseeing the event, said he expects a big field of fun and competitive runners.

The Butuan regional qualifying race, which is also open to runners from the nearby provinces of Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur, serves as the third qualifying run in Mindanao with the final regional elimination set next month in General Santos City.

Previous races in Mindanao were held in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro, the latter drawing the biggest field so far of 9,212 runners.

"We are not promising the same turnout as the other Milo marathon races but the response so far to our call for participants in the region has been encouraging," said local race organizer Vic Sai.

The starting gun will be fired at exactly 6 a.m. tomorrow at the Butuan City Rizal Park by Mayor Leonides Theresa Plaza.

"We are thankful to the city government of Butuan for providing support to this first ever major run here," added Sai.

The top three male and female finishers in Butuan qualify to the National Milo Marathon finals in Manila on Oct. 19.

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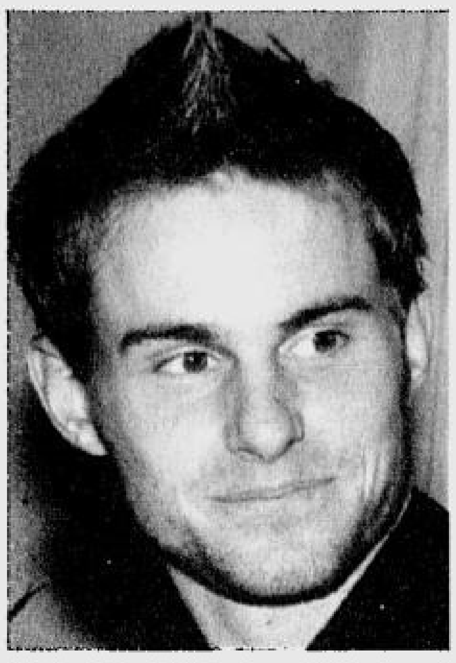


RODDICK

Hot property Roddick out to impress

NEW YORK—A thunderbolt serve, a peerless recent record and a celebrity girlfriend have turned Andy Roddick into the hottest property in American tennis.

Yet the world number four still requires a grand slam title to become the "complete package."

It sounds almost churlish to suggest this, but can the 'A-Rod' handle the pressure?

A win-loss record of 30-2 since the French Open, and a 20-1 return on north American hardcourts this summer, would indicate the question should remain strictly rhetorical.

His partnership with coach Brad Gilbert, not to mention a high-profile relationship with singer and actress Mandy Moore, has seen Roddick blossom from a reckless dynamo into a mature, 20-year-old contender.

His serve of 149 mph earlier this season equaled the world record speed, while he carries himself with great confidence and now understands how to manipulate different situations on court to his advantage.

He has scooped three titles in his last four tournaments, including back-to-back Masters Series crowns at Montreal and Cincinnati.

Moreover, he has the backing of many American fans who are eager for Roddick to assume the glorious mantle held by Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi down the years.

Yet being the overwhelming favorite for a tournament such as the US Open does not sit comfortably with everyone.

Roddick's temperament has improved significantly, but it remains untested at the end of a tight five-setter in a cauldron like Flushing Meadows.

So, too, has his ability to 'go the distance' at a grand slam event. At the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year, he fell at the most agonizing stage of all —the semi-finals.

How will those memories play on his mind in New York?

"I prefer to look forward," he says. "I'm also not into 'ifs' and 'buts'... I'd like to think I've improved as a player since the Australian Open, and even since March this year.

"I'm playing with confidence... I feel as though when I walk on court I will win. Hopefully it will continue.

"Obviously, I'm happy for the summer I've had so far, but now I need to regroup, calm down and get ready for a whole new tournament." It is true he has improved, in every department. Even his formidable serve has got better for he now mixes up the delivery. This weapon will be key in determining his progress at the Open.

But there is a lingering suspicion about his ability to rise to the ultimate occasion, to produce his best tennis when there is no room for error.

Australian Lleyton Hewitt, who has triumphed at Wimbledon and the US Open, is yet to reach a final at his home grand slam event in Melbourne Park. The focus on him every year in his own country is huge and it has undermined all his efforts. *Reuters*

WORLD GYMNASTICS

Hamm seizes the hour

ROMANIAN Oana Ban performs her routine on the beam during the women's team finals at the World Gymnastics Championships in Anaheim, California August 20. Ban scored 9.537 to help her team to a second place finish. Below left is Paul Hamm of the United States, the men's all-around champion. REUTERS

ANAHEIM, California—Paul Hamm made history on the high bar Thursday, putting together a near-perfect routine under excruciating pressure to become the first American man to win the all-around gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championship.

Needing a 9.712 or better to beat China's Yang Wei, Hamm strung together four straight release moves during his 60-second routine—one of the toughest feats to pull off in gymnastics.

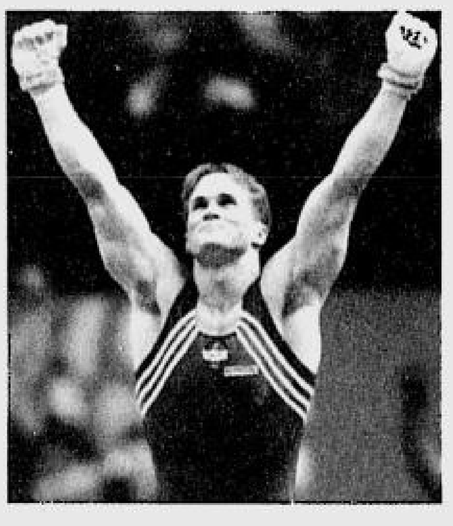
The sequence took seconds, but seemed like hours. With the crowd going crazy, there was only one more thing to do—stick the dismount, which he did.

Moments later, the score, a 9.775, flashed on the scoreboard. The crowd went crazy and Hamm secured his spot in history.

"I knew I had to do one of best routines of my life to win," Hamm said. "I knew I had to stick it, so I just went for it and it happened. It was awesome."

America's only other all-around medalist at worlds was Kurt Thomas, who won silver in 1979. Peter Vidmar is the only American all-around medalist at the Olympics; he won silver in 1984.

The 20-year-old Hamm finished with a score of 57.774. Yang finished .064 points behind for the silver and Hiroyuki Tomita of Japan won the bronze.



Yang, second in the all-around at the Sydney Olympics, performed his final routine a few minutes before Hamm. He scored a 9.662 on his floor exercise, and celebrated by leaping and pumping his fist triumphantly as he walked off the floor, thinking he had secured the championship.

It wasn't to be. Hamm has long worked on one of the toughest high bar routines in the sport, and it hasn't always been pretty.

At the last world championship all-around, in 2001, he went on bar last with a chance to medal, or maybe even win. He fell, though, hitting his face on the bar, and walked away bloodstained and disappointed.

Last weekend, he fell on the routine during preliminaries, a mistake that didn't cost the Americans much. Then, in team finals Monday, he hit the routine, but he was up last, and by then, there was no way the United States could have finished any higher than second.

Would he have liked to have been up there with gold on the line?

"I would say yes," he said Monday. "But I don't really know, because it's so scary."

There was no sense of fright while he was on the bar.

The winning routine included a total of five release moves — in contrast, Yang only performed one during a strong routine that still netted a 9.612. The first is called a Kolman, and it is followed shortly by three straight Tkatchevs that go right into one called a Gienger. In essence, during the four-catch combo, he goes over the bar backward each time and makes a blind catch. The final catch includes a twist.

Hamm's gold goes nicely next to the silver he won in the team competition. The Americans, longtime also-rans in international competitions, were happy because they came so close to longtime powerhouse China in that event. Hamm's coach, Stacy Maloney, didn't want to settle for second. "I told him, 'China got the gold in the team, but they're not getting it in the all-around. It's going to be ours,'" Maloney said. *AP*

The heat's on Schumacher

Montoya looms large on champ's side mirror

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER reacts to a journalist's question during the press conference. AFP

BUDAPEST—Formula One roars back into action this weekend for the Hungarian Grand Prix with five-time world champion Michael Schumacher desperate to silence the critics.

The Ferrari driver has come under increasing pressure and as the championship headed into a brief summer break three weeks' ago, his title lead was cut to just six points.

The pressure is on Schumacher with Williams' Juan Pablo Montoya having claimed podium finishes in each of the last six races.

The four race run-in to the end of the season promises to be a tense affair.

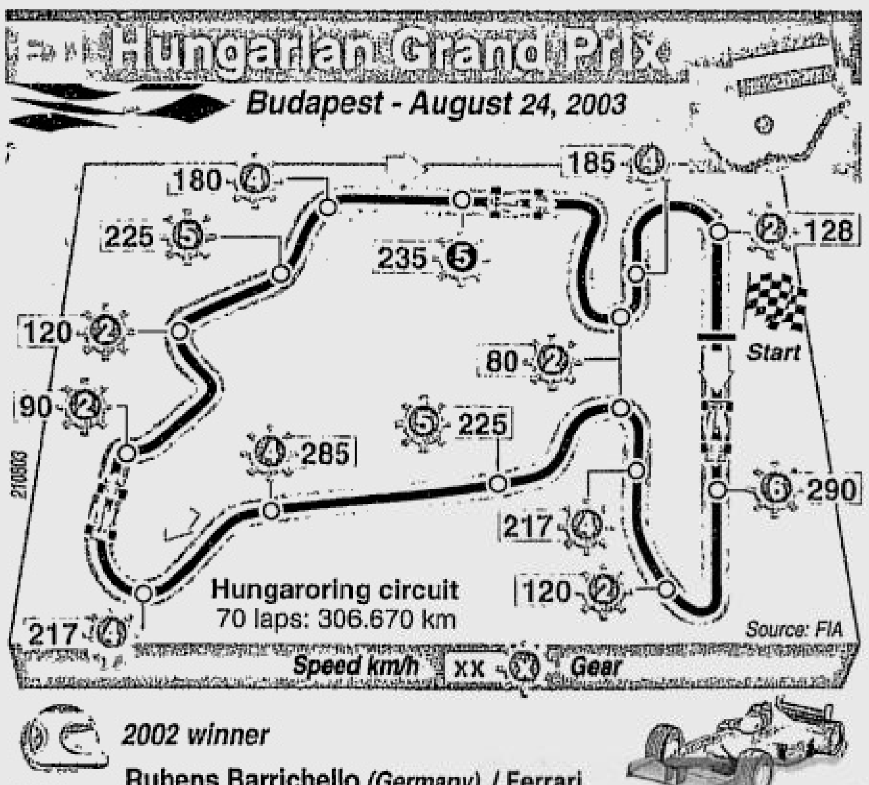
Schumacher, without a victory in more than two months, is confident he can get back to winning ways at the Hungaroring and end doubts about Ferrari's performance.

"We are conscious of the situation in the fight for the world championship and we will do our best to fight for the win in Budapest," said Schumacher, who has won the last three drivers' title and helped Ferrari to lift four consecutive constructors' crowns.

"After the short break I feel extremely fresh and thirsty and can hardly wait to get back in the car again.

"Although we do have much development on the car to do because of the test break we can still go to Hungary with confidence." Montoya continues to play down his title prospects despite his run of form and the Williams driver is taking things one race at a time.

"I am not interested in talking about championships, because the only way these are won is by concentrating on each race as it comes, and that is where my focus lies at the moment," the Colombian said.



He added: "We haven't performed very well in Hungary recently, but our car is much improved this year, so I am sure it will suit the Hungaroring much better." Montoya's teammate Ralf Schumacher heads to the Hungaroring 50,000 dollars worse off after being fined for his part in the opening lap crash in the German Grand Prix three weeks ago.

Schumacher's younger brother lost his appeal against being blamed for the crash, but was fined instead of losing 10-grid positions for Sunday's race.

McLaren drivers Kimi Raikkonen, now third in the drivers race nine points behind Michael Schumacher, and David Coulthard, will bid for podiums to reduce the deficit on Ferrari.

Briton Justin Wilson and Nicolas Kiesa will make their second starts for Jaguar and Minardi respectively after enduring difficult debuts for the teams in the German race.

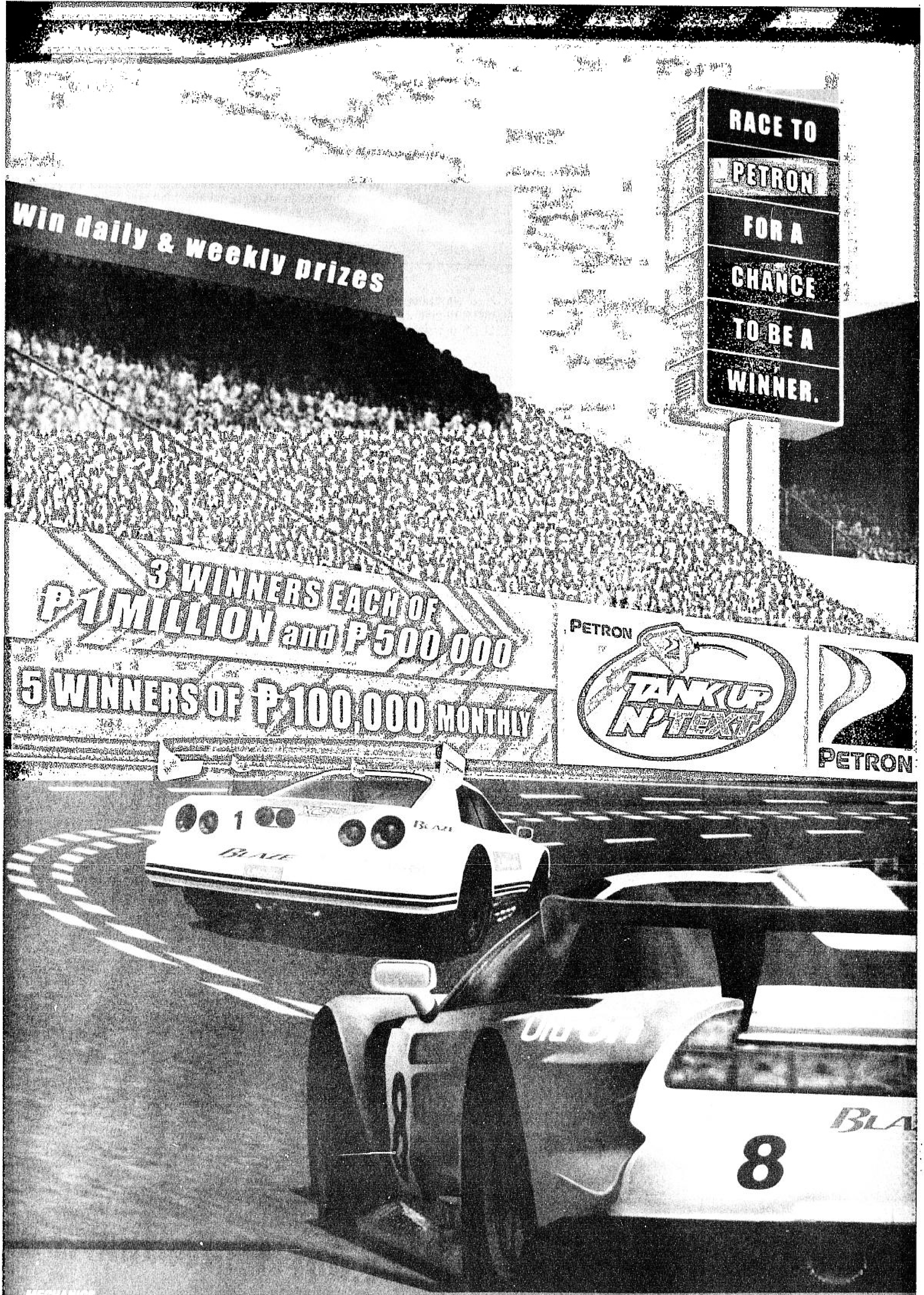
Jordan, meanwhile, will return to the track in a positive frame of mind despite ending the German GP weekend with a hefty legal bill after withdrawing their High Court claim against Vodafone.

The British team, who won the Brazilian Grand Prix through Giancarlo Fisichella in April, will attempt to overcome the financial setback with points in Hungary.

"We are fully committed to making sure Jordan gets the most it can from the rest of this season," team owner Eddie Jordan said.

"It is our target to score points and I have no doubt that we can turn it around. Let's not forget we have won a race this season.

"There are great people in the team, we're doing something we love and we're giving it our all." *AFP*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RP airports pass US agency's safety audit

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE apprehensions that Philippine airports faced a downgrade from the US Federal Aviation Authority following the failed air talks between the two countries, the Philippines passed a recent FAA audit "with flying colors".

"The (Air Transportation Office) just passed the FAA audit. All requirements were met or exceeded. We maintained our Category 1 status," ATO chief Adelberto Yap said in an interview Thursday.

A team of FAA officials came here to do the audit on Aug. 20-21. This year, Yap said FAA officials were here twice before conducting the audit "to discuss aviation security because of terrorism."

Before the audit, he said the ATO was able to correct problems that the FAA team pointed out regarding the presence of informal settlers near the approach to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Despite these corrections of flaws and the country's good track record in terms of airport security, Yap said the ATO still had some apprehensions of a downgrade because of the failed air talks between the Manila and Washington.

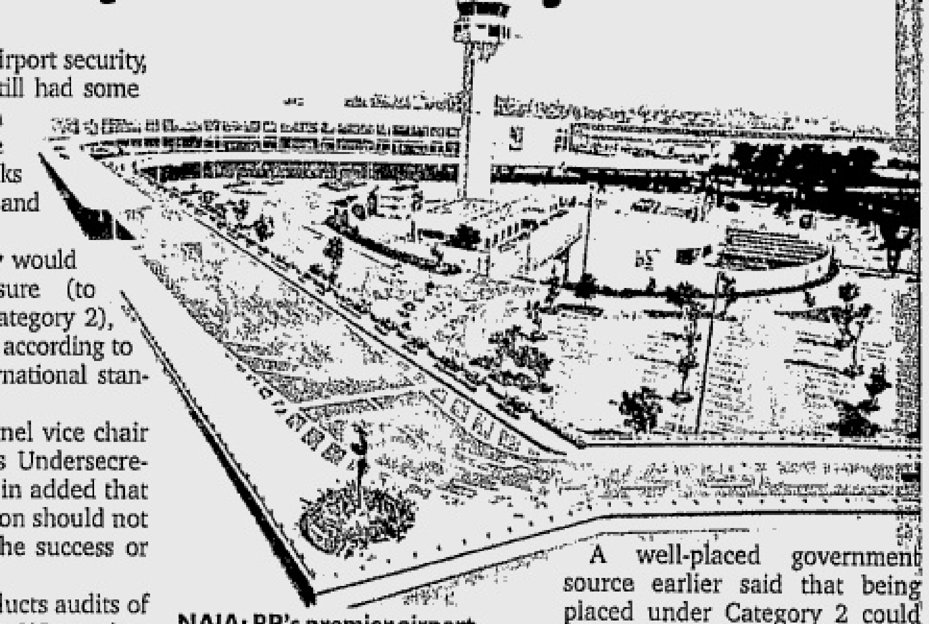
"We thought they would succumb to pressure (to downgrade us to Category 2), but we are working according to the prescribed international standards," he said.

Philippine air panel vice chair and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin added that airport categorization should not be dependent on the success or failure of air talks.

The US FAA conducts audits of all airports where US carriers land. These audits are done to assess the extent of various airports' adherence to international safety and security standards.

During the past three years, Yap said the ATO had been able to consistently maintain the country's Category 1 status.

Under category 1, there are no restrictions by the FAA on US carriers flying to the Philippines as all safety and security procedures are expected to be strictly in place.



NAIA: RP's premier airport

A downgrade to Category 2, however, will adversely affect the country's reputation as far as safety and security are concerned.

Under category 2, there will be no big changes in local civil aviation except that US flights to the Philippines would either be frozen or limited because of security concerns.

A well-placed government source earlier said that being placed under Category 2 could put the Philippines "under some sort of travel advisory" as a downgrade would mean the country's airports did not have adequate security measures in place.

The source related that in 1994, the FAA downgraded the Philippines to Category 2 after flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. opted to get aircraft from European manufacturer Airbus instead of from the American supplier Boeing.

Delay in Napocor privatization to bloat deficit in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S failure to immediately privatize the cash-strapped National Power Corp. would continue to bleed state finances next year and bloat the consolidated deficit in 2004 to P293.2 billion, a level 1.7 percent or P4.9 billion more than the estimated total deficit of P288.3 billion this year.

The consolidated public sector deficit or CPSD is likely to swell by 24.6 percent or P57 billion by the end of the year from P231.3 billion in 2002, based on the Department of Finance's presentation to Congress during a budget hearing Wednesday.

A month ago, the finance department projected that the CPSD would ease to P221.63 billion next year or lower by 20 percent from this year's estimate on prospects that the government could start privatizing the state-owned power firm.

"The monitored corporations' deficit is expected to increase because of projected higher expenditures. This also assumes status quo with regards to the privatization of NPC and Transco," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

The power firm had suffered two failed bids for a management contract on the operation of its transmission assets.

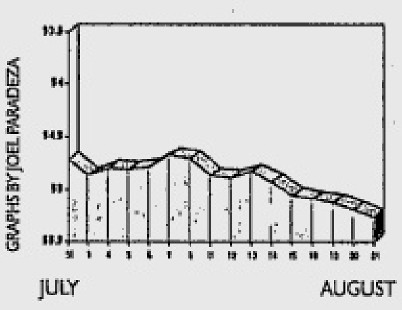
"The corporations will more than double their deficit from P46.4 billion in 2002 to P105.3 billion this year mainly due to Napocor's lower sales receipts," added Camacho, who chairs the state-owned power firm.

From a ratio of 6.7 percent this year and 5.8 percent last year, the projected CPSD in 2004 is equivalent to 6.2 percent of gross domestic product.

The combined deficit indicates how the government and its corporations manage their finances.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

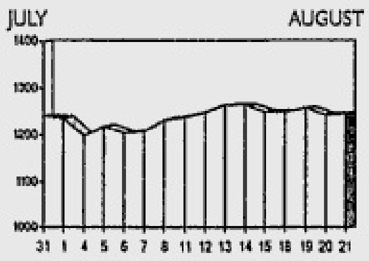
P 55.265 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 21, 2003

¥ 117.84 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2003

GOLD: $ 360.90-361.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 22, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE in talks with regional bourses on infotech upgrade projects



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is in talks with counterpart bourses in the Southeast Asian region on the possible pooling of resources to beef up their respective technological infrastructure.

In a briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was discussing with the exchanges of other Asean countries—including Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia—the potential sharing of technological costs.

"We're discussing the underwriting or sharing of costs of the software and trading systems needed to improve the stock exchanges," Leung said.

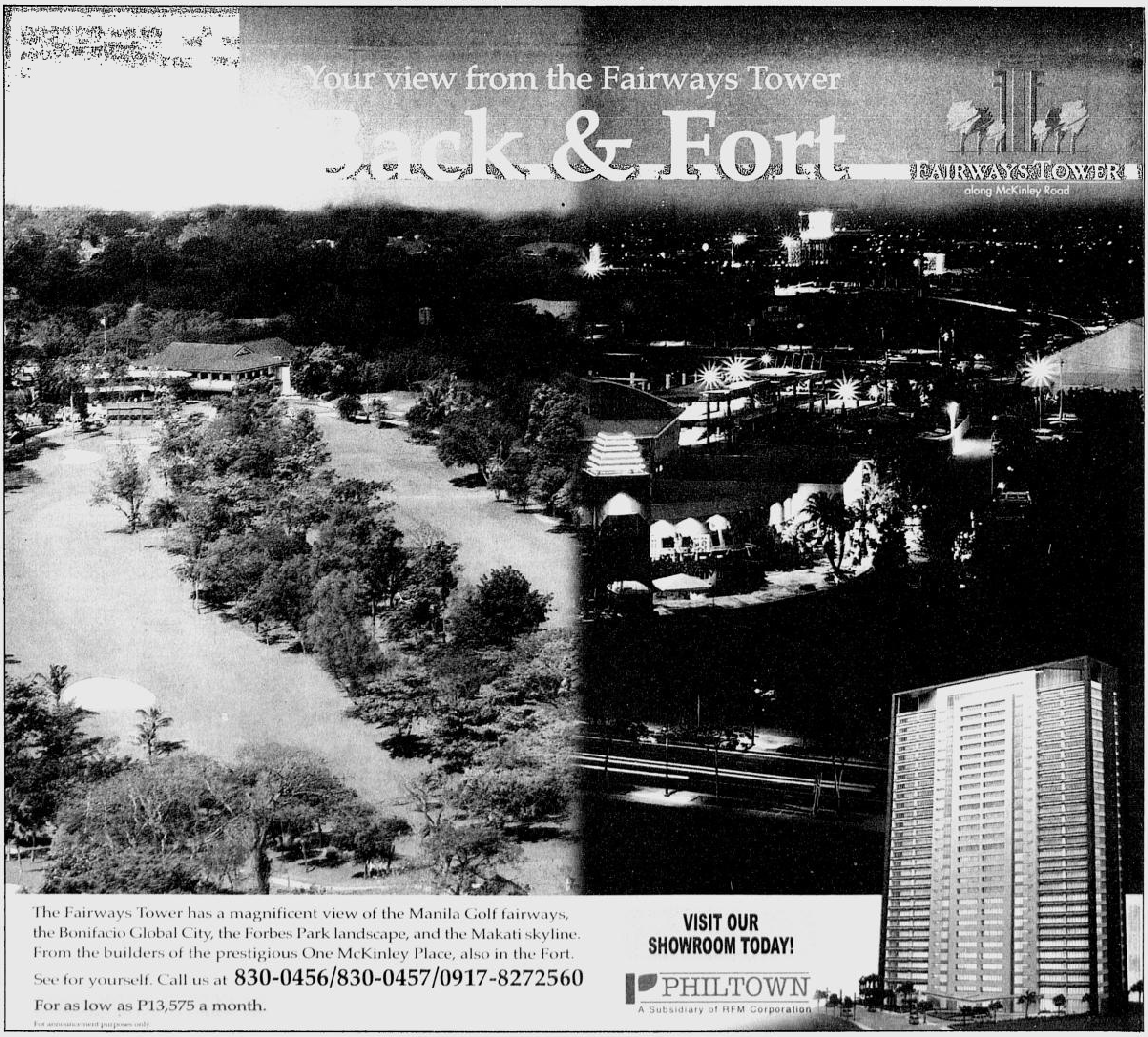
"We are exploring these kinds of alliances in the area of trading system and there has been a lot of interest."

As the cost of shifting to new technology was high, Leung explained that the stock exchanges could acquire, for instance, a new technology as a syndicate instead of each of them shelling out funds for the same.

This way, Leung said each exchange could save on the cost of upgrading its own system and the funds freed could be used for other pressing requirements.

The PSE has been trying to improve its operations in preparation for its own initial public offering.

The local bourse also plans to invite the stock exchanges in Asia, London and New York to become strategic partners to enhance its image and value in preparation for its own listing. *Doris C. Dumlao*



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Pidal pusher

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WILL Jose Pidal please come forward to clear up this money laundering mess! Only then will we be back to … well, "normal."

In our case, "normal" means that we must be left in peace to do our day-to-day things. For instance, we need to go back to getting ready for the main event in 2004.

More than anything else, this Jose Pidal thing only serves as a disturbance to our way of life between now and the elections next year.

In the next few months until May next year, you see, at least based on the thinking in business, nothing much is expected to happen in business—i.e. no investments.

And that is the biggest reason, actually, why the peso, again, is taking a sound beating against the dollar. There's fear in the hearts of men and women, and others.

* * *

ALRIGHT, at the moment, the noise about this Jose Pidal thing may seem to be dying down, which all the more can make business people nervous.

Nobody in this cute administration is lifting a finger, even a dirty one, just to try to get the money for the cash-strapped government.

It is clear that the huge bank accounts exist. It is also clear that, since nobody comes forward to claim the accounts, "Jose Pidal" is a fictitious name.

Precisely because somebody is hiding behind a fictitious name, we know that it is a job for the Anti Money Laundering Council, or the AMLC. No brainer!

Yet it is silent. And so are the other agencies of the government. Thus, the "explosives" from Pidal-pusher Sen. Panfilo Lacson seems to have gone pffft.

* * *

BUT you can bet that the noise is going to get loud soon. Still going to hold hearings on the bank accounts is the circus, este, the Senate.

Like any freak show, Senate hearings on any supposed wrongdoing among public figures, always command public attention. They become media events.

If nobody surfaces to claim the money in those huge bank accounts, surely, many of us will want to see it go to the national treasury for our public officials to steal again.

No, I mean, what I am actually trying to say is, well, if no real person claims to own the bank accounts, it does hurt us if the money goes to the government.

Since the Anti Money Laundering Council, or the AMLC, is not even interested in looking into the accounts, soon, the public will smell a grand-scale cover-up. It is bad!

* * *

DON'T look now, but people are still talking about the much bigger multi-billion-peso accounts which are also under a fictitious name in another bank.

It is said to be deposited in neither Union Bank nor Bank of the Philippine Islands, but in the subsidiary of a big local bank.

The focus of speculation in business circles is, of course, the source of all that money. Where did it come from?

One version talks about the famous Jose Velarde account. People are saying that, for the AMLC, looking at the names of depositors in that account is a good start.

Rumors persist that the list of people who supposedly put a lot of money in the Jose Velarde account, also "contributed" to another account under a fictitious name.

* * *

TRUE, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, the peso's exchange rate has some fundamental weakness.

Be that as it may, or may it be as that, or however they say it, Camacho does not think that the exchange rate should be at this level at 31-month low.

But what should be the rate? All along, I thought that the market says where the rate should be. Under an open market system, no one person can determine it.

In other countries, if the government believes that the exchange rate is under speculative attack, the government intervenes with hard currency.

Here, this cute administration of Gloriaetta just tries to talk up the peso exchange rate. See, it's all just words! They do not move mountains.

* * *

OUR problem is the gross international reserve, or the GIR, which, according to Bangko Sentral figures, is dropping fast.

Thus the government applies caution in intervening in the currency market. It cannot afford to run out of ammo by firing out dollars into the market at will.

Precisely, the GIR is dwindling for the same reason that forex speculation is getting feverish. And that is, we are not earning enough foreign exchange.

In fact, we are spending more dollars than we are getting from abroad through foreign loans, foreign investments, and remittances of overseas Filipinos.

For proof, look at the balance of payments record, showing our dealings with the rest of the world, It's a negative $520 million.

* * *

ALL our sources of foreign exchange, except borrowings, are not as good as this cute administration told us they would be.

Direct foreign investments, if any, are slow in coming. Have you heard of any foreign funded multi-billion-peso BOT under this cute administration?

Well, nobody dares to invest here, because of all the controversies about how this cute administration handled the projects of Piatco, Jancom and Amari.

It is all thanks, according to business people, to THE firm. This is also THE firm which Ping Lacson mentioned in his privilege speech.

And so, without the foreign investments, this cute administration just have to keep on borrowing overseas. Times are bad for us when it come to borrowing abroad.

It is getting to be expensive for us. For one, interest rates on our dollar IOUs just went up.

And it's all because of the military rebellion, the Joe P. account, not to mention that nothing much is happening in governance, because it's almost election time.

AYALA SYSTEMS' PETITION

Results of G-EPS bid questioned

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Systems Technology Inc., the losing bidder for a P250-million information technology project of the government, has asked the Supreme Court to compel officials of the Department of Budget and Management to provide the company with key documents that could be used as basis to legally challenge the award of the project to iTBF Philippines.

ASTI wanted certified true copies of the contract signed by DBM and iTBF representatives, the duly notarized joint venture agreement entered into by member companies of the iTBF consortium and the documents submitted by the winning group to be eligible to bid for the IT contract.

ITBF Philippines is a consortium led by East West Electronic Trade Center Ltd., a foreign firm, and domestic companies Right Computer Systems, ABC Corp. and Infomediary Philippines Inc.

ASTI is owned largely by the Ayala group through iAyala Co. Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands. Other shareholders include Singapore Computer Systems Ltd. and Mitsubishi Corp.

Together with ASTI, iTBF bid for the five-year contract to establish and implement a Government Electronic Procurement System, an Internet-based system designed to enable government agencies to make cost-efficient purchases of common supplies.

In a petition filed with the Supreme Court on Aug. 15, ASTI also requested the Supreme Court to order respondents—members of the government inter-agency bids and awards committee led by committee chair and DBM Assistant Secretary Eduardo Opida—to allow company officials to inspect and photocopy documents relating to the financial capability of iTBF or EWETC.

ASTI alleged that DBM officials, Opida in particular, had, by evasive and delaying tactics, denied the company access to the documents necessary for it to determine whether legal challenge in relation to the award was viable.

"Petitioner submits that a reasonable inference as to why Opida is non-responsive is that he is bent on suppressing public information, which, if subjected to public scrutiny, would reveal that the concerns and issues raised by Petitioner are valid," ASTI said.

Among the concerns raised by ASTI was the negative impact of locating the mirror site overseas on ensuring the integrity of the G-EPS hardware, software, and data and on implementation of several provisions of the contract.

ASTI also questioned the computation of the financial capability of iTBF and how DBM established that iTBF, an unincorporated joint venture at the time of pre-qualification for the G-EPS bidding, was 60-percent Filipino-owned.

National Steel buyer to get fiscal incentives

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CITY council of Iligan City has agreed to grant fiscal incentives to the firm that will win the bid to take over the operation of the cash-strapped National Steel Corp. to pave the way for the immediate reopening of the mothballed steel plant.

This was contained in the city council Resolution No. 03-662.

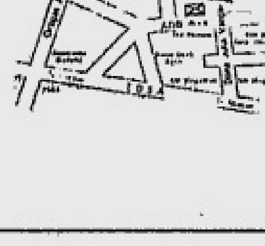
The passage of the resolution came after the Iligan City government agreed to condone a total of P171 million in real property taxes owed by NSC to the local government.

Earlier, NSC's majority shareholder Pengurusan Danaharta Nacional Berhad of Malaysia and creditor-banks also agreed to write-off $790 million and P10 billion worth of debts, respectively.

"The passage of the resolution is a positive sign that we are all committed to making sure that NSC re-operate soon and that we are opening new doors of economic opportunities for the people of Iligan," Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in a statement.

Roxas said the reopening of the steel firm was expected to generate an estimated 500 to 600 new jobs and spur economic activities in Iligan City. He said about 500 employees have recently been hired to do housekeeping and repair works in the NSC plant in preparation for its expected immediate opening.

Roxas said the government was expected to select an investor to rehabilitate and re-operate the plant before the end of October.



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TLC Beatrice announces expansion plans in RP

By Christine A. Gaylican

TLC Beatrice Foods Philippines Inc. said it would build manufacturing facilities in key agriculture-producing provinces in the next five years.

The subsidiary of TLC Beatrice International Holdings Inc., owned and managed by Filipino-American Loida Nicolas-Lewis, will invest in manufacturing facilities in Negros Occidental, Iloilo, General Santos and Davao for agriculture-based products such as meat and seafoods.

TLC Beatrice managing director and president Martin C. Buenaflor told the INQUIRER in an interview that the company hoped to save on logistics, as the processing facilities would be placed in provinces that were producing the required farm produce.

TLC Beatrice's initial project involves meat processing in Naga, Camarines Sur, where a modern processing facility was constructed.

TLC Beatrice said it was also planning to go into the exportation of its processed products as an additional product line of its mother company.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45	45	462,100
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34	266,700
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	14,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	91,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	45,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1630	1630	50
Pcl Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1185	1190	1185	1190	710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.25	25	24.25	25	150,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	830,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	625	635	625	630	99,440
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	2,770,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	530	530	141,390
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	56,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	13.25	12.5	13.25	942,800
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	20	18.75	19.75	2,292,700
Petron Corp.	1.98	2	1.96	2	1,384,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	8,524,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	450,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	6,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.75	0.71	0.72	260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	365,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	30,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	427,100
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	140,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	98,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63.5	198,600
Universal Robina Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	420,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	3,800,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	61,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	2,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	63,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.64	0.59	0.62	27,690,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	1,330,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	12,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	18.25	17.25	17.75	2,094,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,090,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	294,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	8,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	1,830,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,330,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.38	2,160,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	84,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	30,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	4,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.51	7,040,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	310,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.75	25.5	24.75	25.5	239,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	5,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,639,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	730,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	760,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	1	1	9,680,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	50,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	0.9	0.9	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	190,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	270,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,193,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	35,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	54,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	220,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	14,400,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,019,660	34,549,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	203,393,230	346,353,810.00
PRO	19,812,000	56,800,000.00
Mining	109,620,000	651,200.00
OIL	18,300,000	241,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	352,144,890	438,595,860.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	451.30	DOWN 1.14
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,787.26	UP 9.86
PRO	542.50	DOWN 3.42
Mining	1,272.14	UP 11.31
OIL	1.42	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	784.49	DOWN 3.12
Composite	1,245.34	UP 2.48

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99; NO. OF TRADES: 1,958

CURRENCIES

August 21, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.898957	1.000000	55.169000
Japan	Yen	0.007610	0.008465	0.467000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433747	1.594900	87.989000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.115276	0.128233	7.074500
Switzerland	Franc	0.648131	0.720981	39.775800
Canada	Dollar	0.641562	0.713674	39.372700
Singapore	Dollar	0.516761	0.574845	31.713600
Australia	Dollar	0.594038	0.660808	36.456100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.384755	2.652801	146.352400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.239722	0.266667	14.711800
Brunei	Dollar	0.515280	0.573197	31.622700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000119	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.021599	0.024027	1.325500
UAE	Dirham	0.244774	0.272287	15.021800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.112400	61.370000
Argentina	Peso	0.309986	0.344828	19.023800
Brazil	Real	0.299552	0.333222	18.383500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134494	0.149611	8.253900
India	Rupee	0.019662	0.021872	1.206700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.236599	0.263193	14.520100
Mexico	New Peso	0.083014	0.092345	5.094600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.529671	0.589206	32.505900
Norway	Kroner	0.120734	0.134304	7.409400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015580	0.017331	0.956100
South Africa	Rand	0.122412	0.136171	7.512400
Korea	Won	0.000765	0.000851	0.046900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108164	0.120322	6.638000
Syria	Pound	0.021404	0.023810	1.313600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026286	0.029240	1.613100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000564	0.000627	0.034600

INTEREST RATES

August 21, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 21-Aug-03	MART1 20-Aug-03
1 Month	5.8483	5.8625
3 Months	5.8517	5.8714
6 Months	6.395	6.3
1 Year	8.0393	8.0518
2 Years	9.5183	9.5375
3 Years	10.1133	10.1179
4 Years	10.4683	10.4786
5 Years	10.72	10.7286
7 Years	11.4433	11.4446
10 Years	11.7933	11.8571
20 Years	12.1183	12.125
25 Years	12.4125	12.4554

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

Fed says it's nowhere near raising rates

NEW YORK—Federal Reserve policymakers tried to reassure on Thursday that the US central bank is a long way from raising short-term interest rates, even if the economy picks up smartly.

The difference between the current patchy economy and previous postwar recoveries is that inflation is unusually low, which means there is no urgency to raise interest rates to fight it off.

San Francisco Fed President Robert Parry, in a cautious speech about the economic outlook, said the Federal Reserve would not have to get an "early start" on hiking interest rates as it has done in the past, because inflation is so low.

"This is the first expansion in over 40 years that began with a very low inflation rate. So the response of monetary policy isn't necessarily going to be typical, either," Parry told a Rotary group in San Diego.

He said there were still risks to the recovery and in a break with his colleagues, voiced concern over the recent rise in mortgage rates, which he said could hurt consumer spending.

St. Louis Fed President William Poole, in a separate speech, echoed the thought that there was no logic in lifting the 1.0 percent federal funds rate quickly if inflation was subdued.

"We are not on a hair-trigger situation in terms of starting to tighten policy," said Poole, a non-voting member of the Fed's policy committee.

Bond market investors have been jumpy about the prospect of higher interest rates ever since the economy started to show signs of vigor. *Reuters*

Regional US factory jump, jobless drop signal growth

NEW YORK—Manufacturing in the US Mid-Atlantic region soared well beyond Wall Street's expectations in August and US unemployment lines were shorter last week, lending renewed vitality to hopes for stronger growth ahead.

In a sign that the nation's long-beleaguered factories may be catching up to the rest of the economy, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said its monthly industrial gauge leapt to 22.1 in August from 8.3 in July. The jump far exceeded economists' expectations of a rise to 9.9.

It was the third month of expansion for the highly industrialized region. A harbinger of growth, new orders expanded briskly, to 14.6 from 10.4.

"It just confirms the direction of the economy, which is going to see strong growth in the third quarter, especially in industrial production," said Elisabeth Denison, economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

Still, the report was unlikely to quell lingering concerns that higher productivity has allowed firms to do more with fewer workers, and thus delay new hires. The Philly Fed's employment index slipped sharply, to -8.7 from 0.8.

The jobless recovery trend was evident in Thursday's report on weekly jobless claims as well.

While that survey showed a decline in claims for first-time jobless benefits to 386,000 in the week ended Aug. 16, the prior week's figure was revised up to 403,000.

The latest data left economists wondering whether the recent downward pattern of jobless claims would translate into actual employment growth for the month of August.

The US economy has bled jobs for six straight months, with a net 2.5 million positions lost since the start of 2001.

The unemployment rate fell to 6.2 percent in July, but that was only because many people had given up looking for work and thus fell out of the official survey.

Also lending support to the view that an all-out rebound is near, a key forecasting gauge rose in July for the fourth consecutive month, offering the best economic outlook in two years. *Reuters*

US airlines data show good signs

CHICAGO—Large US airlines in July had some of the most encouraging signs on revenue in months, although the typically slower fall travel season still casts uncertainty over the industry, analysts said.

"All else equal, July data represents the first encouraging revenue performance since last December and presumably this time around will not be followed by a war," J.P. Morgan analyst Jamie Baker said in a note released on Wednesday.

The July figures represent the first instance of domestic fares rising since March 2001 and the results are likely to drive modest positive estimate revisions, despite last week's blackout and softening August domestic traffic, Baker said.

"Make no mistake—these are strong results and even we are impressed," Baker said, adding that domestic traffic appeared to start dipping in late July year-over-year from flattish trends.

The American Stock Exchange airline index rose about 2.3 percent on Thursday. The index is up about 88 percent since the end of March when shares were hammered by the Iraq war.

The Air Transport Association, an industry trade group, told analysts that unit revenue for US airlines rose 8.1 percent systemwide in July from a year earlier. Unit revenue is a key industry measure of the money an airline generates by flying one seat one mile." *Reuters*

S. Korea Q2 GDP shrinks

SEOUL—South Korea's economy, the envy of Asian neighbors last year, contracted in the second quarter on flagging consumption, sliding into its first recession since the 1998 Asian crisis, the central bank said on Friday.

Economists and government officials, however, have said the economy should bounce back in the second half of the year, aided by robust exports driven by a recovering global economy.

Nevertheless, most analysts expect near-term growth to be weak in Asia's fourth-largest economy as ballooning consumer debt defaults sap private sector spending.

The data showed gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by a provisional 0.7 percent in the second quarter from the first.

Friday's seasonally adjusted figure came in below a Reuters poll forecast for a 0.4 percent drop, but matched the central bank's earlier forecast for a 0.7 percent decline. The reading followed a 0.4 percent drop in GDP in the first quarter.

"The cooling of private consumption and the inactivity of manufacturing sector could be attributable to a slowing economy," the Bank of Korea said in a statement.

Private sector consumption declined 2.2 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, the data showed, due to faltering household spending on durable goods such as air conditioner, refrigerator and mobile phones.

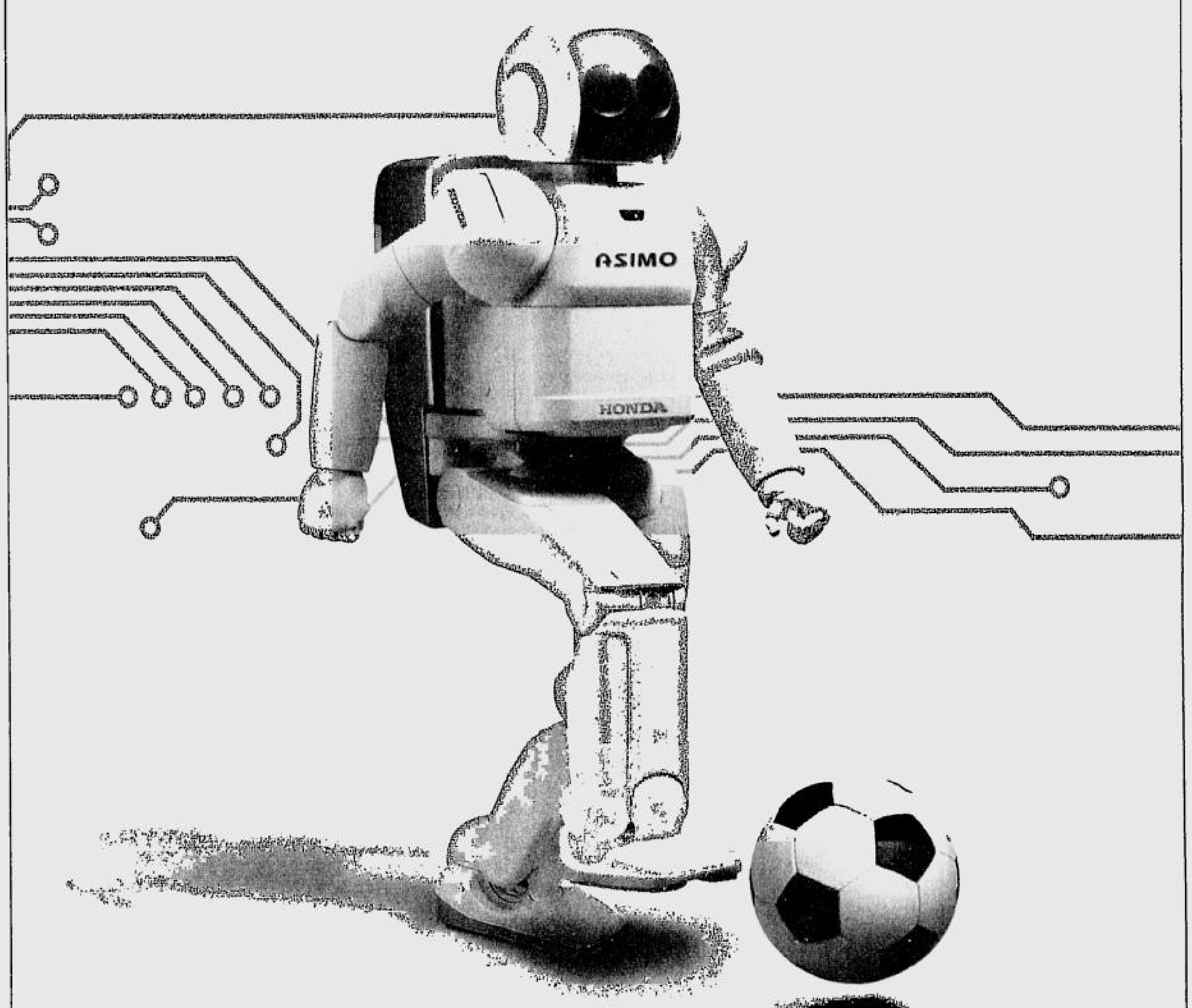
The government has hammered out a stimulus package to spur domestic demand, hit by the North Korean nuclear crisis, a big corporate scandal, soaring household debt and labor unrest.

Extra spending worth 4.2 trillion won ($3.57 billion) is in the pipeline, and lawmakers have agreed to cut special excise taxes on luxury goods including autos. The central bank slashed interest rates twice this year.

Data from an association of South Korean banks showed on Thursday the number of individuals unable to pay back loans hit a record high in July as overstretched consumers defaulted on credit card debt.

Business investment in plants also shrank 0.8 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, versus the first quarter's 1.6 percent gain, the central bank data showed. *Reuters*

Meet ASIMO !



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Honda technology opens up new possibilities in mobility and brings us a step closer to improving our way of life. Be one of the first to meet ASIMO, Honda's most advanced humanoid robot as he visits Manila!

ASIMO

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Level 1 Exhibit Area & Level 2 Grand Atrium on Aug. 23 to 24, 2003.
ASIMO's shows start at 1:00 pm. See you there!

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Editor Aries Espinosa

PCA to stage Philconstruct 2003

THE Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), the oldest trade organization in the country will stage the Philconstruct 2003, the Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition, on Nov. 13 to 16 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Philconstruct 2003, the longest running and most comprehensive construction trade show in the country, will feature the latest technologies in construction as well as materials and equipment covering the wide range of industrial works, infrastructure development, real estate development, and building construction including interior requirements represented by over 5,000 products and global brands of innovations and building solutions.

To generate a more attractive and complete product-mix, the exhibit shall showcase architectural and engineering design software, construction project management software, computer-based construction accounting system, IT-based construction business solutions, architectural and engineering reference books, construction law reference materials, construction works and safety manuals, construction trade skills standards, construction periodicals, product catalogues and videos, computer and other business machines suited for architecture, engineering and construction services.

Also to be featured are the technological breakthroughs in structural components and latest in architectural finishing components, landscaping products and supplies, interior furnishings, appliances and fixtures for industrial, commercial and residential projects as well as country pavilions focusing on their national core competencies in construction and building and construction industry support entities such as government regulatory agencies, banks and financing institutions, communication firms, professional services, educational institutions and industry related trade and professional associations.

One of this year's exhibit highlights is the Philippines' best in goods and services in architecture, engineering and construction. This aims to assist the small and medium enterprises producing quality construction and building products and materials in exploring opportunities in the industry.

PCA's more active role as the event organizer in this year's event ensures a well balance trade show that is most appealing to its target visitor market consisting of construction trade professionals, property owners and developers, investors, building administrators, government agencies, local and foreign suppliers and manufacturers, agents, distributors, dealers, Do-It-Yourself market and academe.

Further, PCA's involvement translates to quality trade visitors considering its wide membership of contractors who are engaged in both horizontal and vertical construction projects and its affiliation with trade related local and international organizations and alliances among its members' colleagues, business partners and government agencies.

"The economy and the construction business climate for the past years may not have prospered as everyone had wished for, but the PCA remains committed to provide the Philippine construction industry the necessary forum such as the Philconstruct 2003 to introduce new technologies and methodologies and make construction practitioners more resilient and globally competitive in the future," said engineer Jorge Consunji, PCA 1st vice president and chair of Philconstruct 2003 committee.

Philconstruct 2003 is in cooperation with the Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors Inc. (Acel) and other leading associations of trade professionals.

For more details, interested parties may contact Philconstruct 2003 exhibit manager, L.A. Ducut and Co. Inc. at 873-1198 or 873-8202 or 0917-3221019 or 0917-5400248 or email at philconstruct@laducut.com.

BPI NAMED BEST BANK

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has been adjudged as the best bank in the Philippines for 2003 by international financial magazine Euromoney. The publication noted that BPI posted a 4.4 percent growth in its corporate loan portfolio at a time when other similar financial institutions saw theirs shrink. Euromoney writes that BPI 'once again stands out from the crowd', adding that BPI dominates the mortgage market with a 20.1 percent share and leads in the consumer and retail market, electronic banking and debit credit transactions. Euromoney conducts an annual worldwide search for the best bank in every country in Asia, North America, Western Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Nordic/Baltic region, and emerging Europe. Photo shows Euromoney associate publisher Michael Carrodus (second from left) hands over the 2003 Award of Excellence to BPI senior vice president Ysabel Syllanteng (left) while BPI vice president Gertie Sinio and Euromoney senior manager for Asia Marcus Langston look on.

NEWS ANCHORS HOST LEDESCO'S LAUNCHING

Karen Davila of ABS-CBN News 'Headline', and Edu Manzano of 'Magandang Umaga Bayan' recently hosted the launching of Ledesco Development Corp.'s Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club project held at the NBC Tent at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Fellow ABS-CBN talent RJ Ledesma of 'Magandang Umaga Bayan-Weekend' who is also the EVP of Ledesco, proudly claims Buena Vista's resort facility '…will be a celebration of Filipino culture with a strongly indigenous biodiversity…' From left are Monaco Consul Fortune Aleta-Ledesma (Ledesco's VP for operation), Karen Davila, Edu Manzano, and RJ Ledesma.

PhilHealth is back in Quezon City

THE Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), in its mission to make social health, insurance accessible to all its members, opens its third Service Office in Quezon City, one of the largest populated area in the National Capital Region.

Located at D&E Building, 1050 Quezon Ave. in Quezon City, the newly opened Service Office welcomes its doors to residents and employers to obtain answers to most of their Medicare concerns without going to PhilHealth's Central Office in Pasig City.

Dr. Francisco Duque III, PhilHealth president and CEO expresses his confidence that members can now be assured that with the growing number of offices being opened by PhilHealth, a more accessible and dynamic quality health service shall be given to them.

The Quezon City Service Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. It will be staffed by frontliners from departments memberships, claims, contribution accounts, accreditation and treasury. Part of the services offered are enrollment of new individually paying and nonpaying members, submission of quarterly remittance reports for the employed sector and payment of premium contributions.

ANCHOR BANK TIES UP WITH PJA FOR CAR LOAN FINANCING

Anchor Savings Bank (ASB) signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Judges Association (PJA) to handle the Car Loan Program of over 700 judges nationwide. Photo shows (seated from left): Hon. Silvestre Bello Jr., executive judge of Regional Trial Court-Caloocan and chair of PJA Car Plan; Evangeline Escobillo, president of Anchor Savings Bank; Hon. Mariano Dela Cruz Jr., president of Philippine Judges Association and Hon. Wilfredo Reyes. Looking on (standing from left) are Almeda Escalona, ASB vice president; Bernardo Olalia, president of BMO Insurance and Danilo Refuerzo, ASB account officer.

UNILAB TURNS OVER HOUSING UNITS TO RECIPIENT FAMILIES

Joselito Campos Jr. (left), chair and CEO of United Laboratories, turns over the symbolic key to one of the recipient families of 26 housing units which Unilab built at Arkong Bato, Barangay Kapitolyo in Mandaluyong City. With his back in photo is Unilab product division manager James Dio. Unilab employees, led by president-COO Carlos Ejercito, constructed the houses in collaboration with the couples for Christ's Gawad Kalinga project. Campos reiterated Unilab's thrusts to assist socially relevant programs, under the company's 'bayanihan' corporate philosophy. Some of the recipient families are shown (far right) in front of their new homes built by Unilab employees.

PMA HANDS DONATION TO GPM

Photo shows the Philippine Marketing Association handing over its donation to Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM). From left are: Sonia de Guzman, PMA treasurer; Lennie Gunda, director for community affairs; Erlinda de Guzman, president and founder of Galing Filipino Movement; PMA president Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr.; and Anna May del Rosario, committee member for community affairs.

LIKHA AWARDEE

Architect Francisco 'Bobby' Manosa, Fellow, UAP was conferred by the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) as the seventh recipient of the Likha Award and Gold Medal during the Architects Annual Convention held at the Manila Hotel. Likha Award is the highest distinction that may be bestowed by the UAP upon a Fellow. Shown in the picture from left to right - College of Fellows chancellor architect Yolanda Reyes, Likha awardee architect Francisco 'Bobby' Manosa, UAP president architect Robert Sac and committee on awards chair architect Celia Dizon.

BITS Clips

Photo courses

THE Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) resumes its basic photo courses. The seminars are held at the Design Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Photography seminars in: fashion will be conducted on Aug. 23 and 31; wedding on Aug. 29 and 30; basic on Sept. 6, 13 and 20; and portraiture on Sept. 7, 14 and 21. SPPP can be contacted at Fujifilm Image Center, SM Megamall, c/o Marsha; SM Megamall, Once Upon A Lifetime Digital Photography Studio, Unit 1010 Upper Ground Level, c/o Beth tel. 806-1346; Design Center, during workshops or call 0916-4693388/0917-4118339/821-7979 c/o Maricris Tabanlag.

'Concert Nights...' this August

AS PART of the "Concert Nights at the Old Walls" made possible by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Intramuros Admin. (IA), and the DOT, the Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation stages the play "Lola Kikay" today, while Joey Ayala and Friends perform live on Aug. 30. Venue for all performances is at the Pueblo Pilipino, VPY Clamshell Tent, Anda cor. Sta. Lucia Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Performances start at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact the Special Projects Office at tel. nos. 527-2209 or 527-2192 locs. 507 to 509 and look for Glenn Francisco or Rizfrancis delos Santos.

Business talk on Cavite

THE Philippine Business Economic Environment class of the MBA-Executive program of the Graduate School of Business of DLSU-Dasmariñas will hold a half-day business talk today, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Riviera Golf and Club in Silang, Cavite. The theme for the event is: "Transformation of Cavite from Agri-Industrial to Techno Industrial." For details, call Gilbert Tiu, Kay Tolentino, Roel Gamo, Dr. Ruben Nayve Jr. at 0917-503-4340, 539-1652, 0918-901-9151 or Claudine at (046) 416-4554 to 56 local 3180.

Sec. Richard Gordon guest in 'I-Barangay Mo!'

SEC. RICHARD Gordon of the DOT will be the guest along with other Barangay leaders in "I-Barangay Mo!" - a news action-oriented radio program of DZRH at 6:30 tonight. James Marty Lim, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (Liga) hosts the program along with veteran broadcaster Sonny Casulla. For those who wish to join the discussion during the program, they may phone in their questions or comments to tel. nos. 832-6112 or 832-6117 or may text at 700-MARTY or 700-62789

UTILITY LIGHTING PROGRAMS ENDORSED

The National Advisory Council for Energy Efficient Lighting (Naceel) led by its newly-elected chair, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez (5th from left), poses with the Business Plans for Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Programs after having passed a board resolution recognizing the efforts of Cepalco, Meralco and the Effective Lighting Initiative (ELI) in the joint design of their respective efficient lighting programs. In photo are (from left) Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Product Standards assistant director Cirila Botor; Philippine Lighting Industry Association outgoing president Douglas Kuffel; Cepalco chair Ramon Abaya; ELI Philippines country director Alexander Ablaza; Meralco president and COO Jesus Francisco; Department of Budget and Management undersecretary Mario Relampagos, and Meralco vice-president Leonisa dela Llana.

ProductFiles

Kape Vinta

HAVE a taste of Starbucks, with Rustan Coffee Corp., newest coffee blend - Kape Vinta Blend. Kape Vinta is a bold blend of Philippine and Indonesian coffees roasted at Starbucks' perfection quality. The result is a lively, earthy, full-bodied coffee with a syrupy mouth-feel and a lingering hint of spiciness in the finish. Kape Vinta is grown at the heart of Bukidnon which makes it even more special. Considered an exquisite coffee, it is best described as earthy and big body. The aroma alone also entices you to enjoy a cup of Kape Vinta blend. It is now available in a half-pound flavorlock packs in all Starbucks retail stores all over the country.

HERBCARE IN SAN JUAN

Herbcare Corp., makers of Charantia Ampalaya Food Supplement, recently held a scientific meeting on diabetes mellitus for the San Juan City health officers to help their patients cope with the disease. Charantia in loose bits, teabags, and capsule form is proven safe and effective in lowering blood sugar level and improving the total well being of diabetics as supplement to their medication, exercise, and proper diet. The Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop), composed of doctors who run our country's network of municipal health centers, officially endorsed Charantia as food supplement to their patients who cannot afford expensive medicines. Amhop also encourages non-diabetics to take Charantia as preventive medicine for diabetes. Photo shows an Herbcare event officer presenting the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine as a result of the clinical trial for Charantia before the city health officers.

Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment

POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue. cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel 7221144 - 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Website:www.poea.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 23
Series of 2003

TO : ALL CONCERNED ENTITIES
RE : GUIDELINES ON THE REGISTRATION OF PRINCIPALS HIRING IMMIGRANT-WORKERS AND DOCUMENTATION OF IMMIGRANT-WORKERS

Further to Memorandum Circular No. 10 series of 2003, on the recruitment and placement activities of immigration consultancy agencies and other similar entities, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

I. Registration of Foreign Principals/Employers

1. Initial Registration

The following documents shall be submitted for registration of the principal:

a. Notarized Special Power of Attorney issued by the principal/employer to the agency;

b. Manpower Request from the principal, stating the position and salary;

c. Valid principal's business license or registration certificate or equivalent document;

d. Master employment contract incorporating, among others, the minimum terms and conditions of employment.

2. Validity of Registration of Principal

The registration shall be valid for four (4) years, unless sooner revoked by the Administration, on any of the following grounds:

a. Expiration of the principal's business license

b. Upon written mutual agreement by the parties to pre-terminate the agreement

c. False documentation or misrepresentation in connection with the application for registration; and

d. Final judgment in a disciplinary action against the foreign principal.

Provisional registration may be granted for a period of ninety (90) days for a principal that substantially meets the registration requirements.

3. Open Registration

The foreign principal/employer may be registered to more than one agency provided that the principal and the agency shall adopt a uniform compensation package. There shall be no minimum number of job order or minimum number of deployed workers that will be registered.

4. Report to POLO on Registered Principals/Employers

The Landbased Center shall furnish the Philippine Overseas Labor Office/Philippine Embassy, a listing of registered principals, on a quarterly basis, for purposes of monitoring and reference.

II. Requirements for issuance of Exit Clearance

The following shall be submitted/presented to POEA as requirements for the issuance of exit clearance:

a. Request for registration of immigrant-worker

b. Individual employment contract/employment offer or equivalent document

c. Information sheet

III. Name Hiring

The following requirements shall be submitted by the immigrant-worker requesting documentation through the name hire facility:

a. Individual employment contract

b. Visa or equivalent document

The name hire shall be exempted from the medical examination requirement given the medical examination requirement by foreign embassies for immigrant visa holders.

This Circular takes effect 15 days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

15 August 2003

(PDI–August 23, 2003)

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUGUST 28, 2003 THURSDAY 2:00 pm
PENTHOUSE, B.A. LEPANTO BUILDING, PASEO DE ROXAS AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

BULACAN

Lot 1–Townhouse **LA: 44sqm FA: 34sqm**
L7 B36 Blubird St, Northridge Subd, Bgy Sto Cristo, SJDM City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 107,000

Lot 2–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 200sqm FA: 747sqm**
Provincial Rd, Sitio San Pedro, Purok 7, Area P Sapang Palay, SJDM City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,430,000

Lot 3–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 248sqm FA: 240sqm**
104 Cadena de Amor St, Alido Heights Subd, Bulihan, Malolos
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,040,000

Lot 4–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 402sqm FA: 302sqm**
Lots 5, 6 & 7, B4 Bgy Caniogan, Malolos
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 765,000

Lot 5–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 181sqm FA: 150sqm**
230 Nolasco St, Pulong Gubat, Balagtas
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 664,000

Lot 6–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 300sqm FA: 90sqm**
L25 B1 Isaac Pearl St, Ciudad Real Subd, Ph I, Tungkong Mangga, SJDM City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 536,000

Lot 7–Lot Only **LA: 233sqm**
Green Plains Subd, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 595,000

Lot 8–Lot Only **LA: 220sqm**
Green Plains Subd, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 561,000

Lot 9–Lot Only **LA: 200sqm**
L14 B8 Eucalyptus St, Green Plains Subd, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 510,000

Lot 10–Lot Only **LA: 338sqm**
Cor Gen Luna & R Salas Sts, Ciudad Real Ph II, Tungkong Mangga, SJDM City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 345,000

Lot 11–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L26 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 12–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L27 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 13–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L28 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 14–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L29 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 15–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L30 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 16–Lot Only **LA: 138sqm**
L31 B6 Meyland Vill, Bgy Lawa, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 294,000

Lot 17–Lot Only **LA: 279sqm**
San Carlos St, Rosaryville Subd, Sta Cruz, Guiguinto
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 475,000

Lot 18–Lot Only **LA: 176sqm**
461 (old) 109 (new) San Vicente St, Bgy Fatima III, Area F, Sapang Palay, SJDM City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 94,000

Lot 19–Lot Only **LA: 273sqm**
Better Living, Bunducan, Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 164,000

LAS PINAS

Lot 20–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 560sqm FA: 681sqm**
11 Doña Manuela Ave, Manuela Subd
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 4,855,000

Lot 21–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 248sqm FA: 149sqm**
L11 B7 Meteor St, Moonwalk Subd
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,162,000

Lot 22–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 240sqm FA: 92sqm**
41 Tindalo Rd, Pilar Vill Ph IV
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 977,000

MAKATI CITY

Lot 23–Condo **FA: 157sqm**
Unit 5A LPL Towers, Legaspi St, Legaspi Vill
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,888,000

Lot 24–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 324sqm FA: 108sqm**
1 Ponte St, M Dela Paz Subd, Bgy Singkamas
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,103,000

Lot 25–Lot Only **LA: 347sqm**
2545 Cor Anastacio & La Consolacion Sts, Guadalupe Nuevo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 4,425,000

Lot 26–Lot Only **LA: 309sqm**
1720 Escuela St Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 4,203,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lot 27–Townhouse **LA: 38.5sqm FA: 101sqm**
Unit F6 RSG L Townhomes, Calbayog St
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 858,000

Lot 28–Lot Only **LA: 243sqm**
909 Busilak Street, Barangay Barangka Drive
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,099,000

MARIKINA CITY

Lot 29–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 420sqm FA: 206sqm**
54 Aguinaldo St, Industrial Valley Subd
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,653,000

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 30–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 180sqm FA: 330sqm**
Rd Lot 3 R M. Tiosejo Subd, Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,383,000

Lot 31–Lot Only **LA: 359sqm**
Everlasting Circle, South Greenheights Subd, Putatan, Muntinlupa
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 763,000

PARANAQUE CITY

Lot 32–Condo **FA: 76.4sqm**
Penthouse E, Isabelle Mansion, L.P. Leviste Ave, Sun Valley, Bgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,091,000

Lot 33–Condo **FA: 76.4sqm**
Penhouse G, Isabelle Mansion, L.P. Leviste Ave, Sun Valley, Bgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,091,000

Lot 34–Condo **FA: 48sqm**
Penthouse L, Isabelle Mansion, L.P. Leviste Avenue, Sun Valley, Brangay Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 686,000

Lot 35–Condo **FA: 29.65sqm**
Penthouse A, Isabelle Mansion, L P Leviste Ave, Sun Valley, Bgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 424,000

Lot 39–Condo **FA: 22.3sqm**
3-L, Isabelle Mansion, L.P. Leviste Ave, Sun Valley, Bgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 299,000

Lot 40–Townhouse **LA: 78.75sqm FA: 62sqm**
L4 B1, Prince Court I, El Dorado Ave, Better Living
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 537,000

Lot 41–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 397sqm FA: 156sqm**
Elizalde cor W Vinzons St, B F Homes
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,317,000

Lot 43–Lot Only **LA: 193sqm**
L6 B1 Purity St, Remanville Subd Bgy Don Bosco
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 362,000

PASIG CITY

Lot 44–Condo **FA: 181sqm**
Unit 1103 Manila Luxury Condo, Pearl Drive cor Golder Loop, Ortigas Ctr
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,202,000

Lot 45–Condo **FA: 152.6sqm**
Unit 504 Crisanta Towers, Captain Javier St, Bgy Oranbo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,074,000

Lot 46–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 229sqm FA: 195sqm**
L10 B7 Marcelo St, Suarezville Subd, Bgy Pinagbuhatan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,564,000

Lot 47–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 390sqm FA: 113sqm**
41 Gen Delgado St, San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 9,862,000

Lot 48–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 210sqm FA: 296sqm**
15 Camia St , De Castro Homesite, Bgy Sta Lucia, Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 980,000

QUEZON CITY

Lot 49–Condo **FA: 79.63sqm**
Unit 803 Garden Island Condoville Bldg 1, #34 N. Domingo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,896,000

Lot 50–Townhouse **LA: 50sqm FA: 100sqm**
L3 B2 Rd Lot 3 Town & Country Gardenville Ph 2, Bgy Bahay Toro, Proj 8
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,131,000

Lot 51–Townhouse **LA: 72sqm FA: 126sqm**
Unit A4 La Maison Townhouse, Col. Boni Serrano Ave cor Katipunan Rd
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,418,000

Lot 52–Condo **FA: 72.75sqm**
Unit 404 Adelina II Condo, Columbia cor Imperial St.
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,237,000

Lot 53–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 172.3sqm FA: 195sqm**
115 A Luna St, Proj 4
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,128,000

Lot 55–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 550sqm FA: 95sqm**
5 Don Francisco St, Villa Beatriz Subd, Old Balara, Capitol Dist
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,495,000

Lot 56–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 300sqm FA: 102sqm**
9 Alden St, North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,653,000

Lot 57–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 100.95sqm FA: 167sqm**
38 Marang St, Proj 2
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,512,000

Lot 58–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 200sqm FA: 112sqm**
L8 B26 Talisay St, Greenfield Subd II, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 930,000

Lot 59–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 181sqm FA: 76sqm**
39 San Ignacio St, Bgy Gulod, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 676,000

Lot 60–Lot Only **LA: 355.75sqm**
L7 B1 Interior Calderon St, Bgy Manlag, Proj 4
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,268,000

Lot 61–Lot Only **LA: 820sqm**
L19 B10 Sunnyside Hts, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,952,000

Lot 62–Lot Only **LA: 204sqm**
1020N4 Milestone Ave Ext Cmpd, Pasong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 867,000

Lot 63–Lot Only **LA: 462sqm**
L8 B9 Sunnyside Subd, Capitol Dist, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,213,000

Lot 64–Lot Only **LA: 300sqm**
L15 B203 Milflores St, Geneva Gardens, Neopolitan Homes Vill, Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,275,000

SAN JUAN

Lot 65–Condo **FA: 180.75sqm**
Unit 14A, One Beverly Place Condo, #35 Annapolis St
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 6,146,000

VALENZUELA

Lot 66–Lot&Imprvmnt **LA: 240sqm FA: 135sqm**
Sampaguita cor Dama De Noche Sts, Sta Lucila Vill I, Bgy Vicente Reales
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 899,000

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Diagnostic Test Kit
IFB No. WB-ECD-03-DOH-004

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of 50,000 diagnostic test kits.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the World Bank Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of Procurement and Logistics Service, Building 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila with telephone number (632) 338-3413 to 14, fax number (632) 743-9562/711-6831 from **28 August to 22 September 2003**, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or US$150 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. If payment is in from of bank draft, the check should be for the account of the Department of Health. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered at the HHRDB Conference Room, Department of Health, Building 12A, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 9:00 a.m. on 23 September 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the HHRDB Conference Room at 9:00 a.m. on **September 9, 2003.**
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **September 23, 2003** at 9:01 a.m. at the HHRDB Conference Room, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

By the authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 23 & 24, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the following motor vehicles of the Supreme Court on "AS IS, WHERE IS" and "CASH and CARRY" bases will be accepted by the Committee on Bids at exactly 2:00 p.m. on September 17, 2003 at Training Room 3, Multi-Purpose Building, Supreme Court.

Item No. 1 - One unit-	Mercedes Benz 240-D Plate No. SCY-795-Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 20,761.00
Item No. 2- One unit-	Nissan Vanette Plate No. SED-252-Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 54,100.00
Item No. 3- One unit-	Toyota Lite Ace Plate No. SEG-700-Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 53,200.00
Item No. 4- One unit-	Nissan Vanette Plate No. SED-296- Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 54,000.00
Item No. 5- One unit-	Toyota Lite Ace Plate No. SDX-828- Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 49,000.00
Item No. 6- One unit-	Nissan Vanette Plate No. SED 232- Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 54,000.00
Item No. 7- One unit-	Toyota Lite Ace Plate No. SDN-979- Gasoline Minimum Bid- Php- 49,000.00

Prescribed bid forms, terms and conditions may be obtained from the Office of the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue cor. Padre Faura, Manila.

Subject properties may be inspected anytime during office hours.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and offers, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

August 19, 2003.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI--Aug. 23 & 30, 2003)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD 2003-008

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2003; 10:00 AM LAST DAY OF BID DOCS. ISSUANCE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2003			
8A1	UPGRADING OF SERVICE FEEDER CABLES & CONSTRUCTION OF POWERHOUSE BUILDING	SAD-03-0064 (JS)	P 1,172,400.00
8A2	FLOW INDICATOR & BREATHER CONTROL SYSTEM	MAG-03-0118 (JM)	P 1,440,000.00
8A3	OFF-SITE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIALS	LGP-03-099 (ZC)	P 1,028,556.00
8A4	REPLACEMENT OF BINGA STATION BATTERY BANK WASTE MATERIALS	AMB-02-008 (LS)	P 1,408,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2003; 2:00 PM LAST DAY OF BID DOCS. ISSUANCE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2003			
8B1	PARTIAL RETUBING OF BOILER ECONOMIZER	BCF-03-271 (NY)	P 13,000,000.00
8B2	REPAIR & RECONDITIONING OF ONE (1) AC MOTOR	BCF-03-397 (NY)	P 1,000,000.00
8B3	SPARE PARTS FOR BOTTOM ASH SLURRY PUMPS	BCF-03-255 (NY)	P 2,093,682.00
8B4	SPARE PARTS FOR ASH SLURRY PUMPS	BCF-03-256 (NY)	P 3,757,428.00
8B5	LUBRICATING OIL FOR HITACHI-SULZER DIESEL ENGINE	PB02-03-132 (EA)	P 14,400,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 30, 2003; 9:00 AM LAST DAY OF BID DOCS. ISSUANCE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2003			
8C1	ON-LINE APPLICATION OF HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATION COATING	TIW-03-023 (ZC)	P 7,500,000.00
8C2	REHABILITATION OF PERIMETER LIGHTINGS OF PLANT, HOUSING CMPD & PUMP HOUSE	TIW-03-028 (JS)	2,000,000.00
8C3	RECONDITIONING OF 6X230KV OCB AT PLANT A SWITCHYARD	TIW-03-029 (ZC)	4,000,000.00
8C4	RECONDITIONING OF 4X230KV OCB AT PLANT B SWITCHYARD	TIW-03-030 (RP)	2,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 1, 2003; 2:00 PM LAST DAY OF BID DOCS. ISSUANCE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2003			
8D1	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP 60 CU M/HR MFR INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS	MCF-02-780 (JP)	[illegible]0,000.00
8D2	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP 12.5 CU M/HR MFR INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS	MCF-02-779 (JP)	P 400,000.00
8D3	REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE ELECTROCHLORINATOR PLANT	MCF-03-186 (JP)	598,300.00
8D4	MCS, CASTLET MODULE PC100	MCF-03-325 (JP)	P 1,340,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules or

8B1, 8B3 - 8B5	SEPTEMBER 15, 2003 9:00 AM	8D1	SEPTEMBER 16, 2003 2:00 PM
8C1 & 8C4	SEPTEMBER 16, 2003 10:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on September 01, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued 7 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond Two and a half percent (2.5%) penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Aug 23 & 30, 2003)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

TB a major health threat in the workplace

By Charles E. Buban

TUBERCULOSIS rarely crosses the minds of most Filipino office workers. Perhaps that's because cases of the disease are seldom reported.

But according to the Philippine Business for Social Progress, a private and nonprofit foundation, the disease is most common among the economically productive group—the working segment of the society—aged between 15 and 54.

Based on a study by the Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (Philippine TIPS), the economic impact in terms of wages and benefits lost due to TB could be nearly P8 billion a year.

The study also found that premature deaths from TB could cause a staggering P27 billion loss in potential wage income and benefits every year.

"TB interrupts workflow, lowers productivity and raises both direct cost related to treatment and care and indirect costs such as the replacement and retraining of workers," said the study. "Without effective treatment, employees sick with TB will often spend three to four months off work."

On the average, TB robs Filipino workers of P216 per day for women and P451 per day for men, the study said.

But given effective treatment, many employees can return to work within two to four weeks without the risk of infecting others.

"Managing TB in the country requires the collaboration of the government and the private sector," says Dr. Rodrigo Romulo, technical coordinator of Philippine TIPS.

The World Health Organization has prescribed a comprehensive strategy for TB control called the Direct Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS).

This strategy is embodied in the National TB Program and the Comprehensive and Unified Policy for TB Control in the Philippines which were ratified through Executive Order 187 issued last March 21.

The EO calls upon the private sector to actively fight TB by adopting a TB-DOTS in the workplace program.

"Companies can play a crucial role in checking the spread of TB among their workforce, especially if they have some sort of program that subsidizes the cost of their employees' treatment requirements," Romulo says.

Comprehensive strategy

DOTS ensures the diagnosis, treatment and cure of TB patients through standardized systems and procedures in TB control and management.

Its implementation is based on five elements:

- Government and senior management commitment to control and management TB, thus ensuring availability and sustained resources for TB control and management activities
- Good quality diagnosis using sputum smear microscopy as the preliminary diagnostic tool for TB
- Standardized treatment regimentation using good quality drugs and guaranteed uninterrupted drug supply
- Directly observed treatment by trained treatment partners
- Standardized recording and reporting.

The PBSP is currently piloting three DOTS in the workplace models in Central Azucarera Don Pedro Inc., Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and American Standard.

Own strategy

"These companies have their own set of strategies reflecting the nature of their businesses. However, all these models have all the five elements of DOTS," says Romulo.

At the end of the year, the PBSP will evaluate these models so it will know which can be best applied to a certain workplace.

"A corporate program (on TB) makes good business sense since prompt diagnosis and effective treatment reduce absenteeism and prevent the spread of the disease to other workers and their families," Romulo says.

TB kills 75 Filipinos every day. Among the regions, Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog have the highest prevalence of the disease, according to the PBSP study.

Why tuberculosis patients need to get well

By Tessa R. Salazar

WOULD you get yourself checked by a doctor if you had symptoms that suggest tuberculosis? Or would you rather shrug the symptoms off and hope the disease goes away by itself?

Tuberculosis leaves a great stigma to those who have it, yet those who are infected are not compelled to get well as soon as they should or with the assistance of health professionals. They don't feel strongly that it is their responsibility not to infect other people.

In two nationwide surveys involving TB-symptomatics conducted 14 years apart—in 1983 and 1997—there was hardly any change in this attitude. Half of the TB-symptomatics surveyed opted not to take any course of action. Of those who wanted to do something, half opted to self-medicate.

Treatment problems

Dr. Charles Y. Yu, chair of the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis, says a recent study of the TB situation in the Philippines revealed that more than 50 percent of those infected either refused or are unable to access modern medical treatment, with a sizeable proportion choosing self treatment or consulting traditional healers.

And instead of striking fear in the hearts, or lungs, of Filipinos, Yu says TB is even made the butt of jokes in entertainment media.

TB experts believe the disease is largely misunderstood by Filipinos, who are usually health-conscious.

Says Yu: "I believe Filipinos are health-conscious. They self-medicate (first), and if they don't get well they consult health centers. Yet still half of TB patients die without seeing a health professional or a doctor."

Common cause of death

TB is the fifth most common cause of death in the Philippines, the virus infecting almost half the country's population of 77 million. Of those infected, one out of 10 will develop the disease in their lifetime.

A study of the TB situation shows that more than 50 percent of all Filipinos with TB symptoms who sought treatment prefer to consult private physicians. But a large number of private doctors seeing TB patients prefer, for various reasons, to use treatment options other than Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course, or DOTS.

The Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (TIPS) said access to cheap TB drugs is essential for full and effective treatment, and is one of the cornerstones of the DOTS protocol. Outside the DOTS program in government facilities, prices of TB drugs have been found to be beyond the reach of poor patients.

Without treatment support, Yu fears that patients would only discontinue the treatment, starting an even more vicious cycle of the disease.

Can coco flour prevent cancer?

AMONG HEALTH aficionados, coconut oil has a bad reputation, mainly due to its high saturated fat content, which in turn has been linked to cancer and heart disease. However, recent findings reveal that this reputation may have been undeserved. Coconut flour made from *sapal* (the meat usually discarded after milk extraction) contains a significant amount of dietary fiber that may help control cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Food and Nutrition Research Institute researcher Trinidad P. Trinidad has found that coconut flour has more dietary fiber than other local sources like banana, cassava, wheat and rice. It is this dietary fiber which interests scientists since fiber has long been associated with the prevention and management of diabetes, cancer, constipation, heart disease and other illnesses.

Interestingly enough, our country has been steadily adopting Western lifestyles, and Western risk factors and cardiovascular diseases (especially heart attack and hypertension) are now ranked first in the Department of Health's list of leading causes of mortality here.

According to Dr. Trinidad, coco flour also contains a great amount of butyric acid, which enhances metabolism and enzymatic activity in the colon. Butyric acid is widely used to treat early stage tumors, including those implicated in breast cancer. (By the way, butyric acid is also found in milk fat and yogurt, which can stimulate the production of good bacteria in the body.)

Mary Charlotte Fresco of the S & T Media Service reports that coco flour is now used as a substitute for wheat, rice or potato flour in pastries, breads and snacks. Of course, eating such foods regularly is not exactly the way to health, particularly with transfats (partially hydrogenated stuff, for instance) present in huge amounts. But that is another story.

Mangrove dye

Filipinos are certainly creative. The mangrove has now been put to still another use—its skin (*tambark*) is a source of dye for abaca and piña cloth in Kalibo, Aklan, a local widespread practice since the 1970s. Apparently mangrove skin is quite versatile—it can produce dark and light colors (brown, red, blue) depending on the species.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

Jun Aguirre of the S & T Media Service reports that scientists from the Philippine Textile Research Institute recently visited the 75-hectare Kalibo Mangrove Reforestation Project and took samples of the mangrove skin. They hope to determine whether dye commercialization is feasible.

Abaca and piña cloth are prime exports of Aklan to the US, Europe and Asia. Jairus Lachica of the DOST has high hopes for the technology, and when it succeeds, Aklan may become the fiber capital of the country.

Lumber technology

The once-obscure machine-graded lumber (MGL) technology has sparked interest among local producers and traders. The Forest Products Research and Development Institute has been holding forums and seminars since last year, and they now report that at least two big companies are highly interested in the technology.

MGL produced from industrial tree plantation species, lesser-known species, and imported logs may soon become as attractive construction materials as steel and concrete. Trusses made of MGL are reportedly found to be as durable as steel when properly treated.

Arlene Garcia-Blanco of Mediacore reports, "The MGL technology is an output of a project on the development of a lumber stress grading system and formulation of national standards for tropical timber in the Philippines supported by the International Tropical Timber Organization. Once the lumber stress grading is finalized, the FPRDI will press for its inclusion in the National Structural Code of the Philippines.

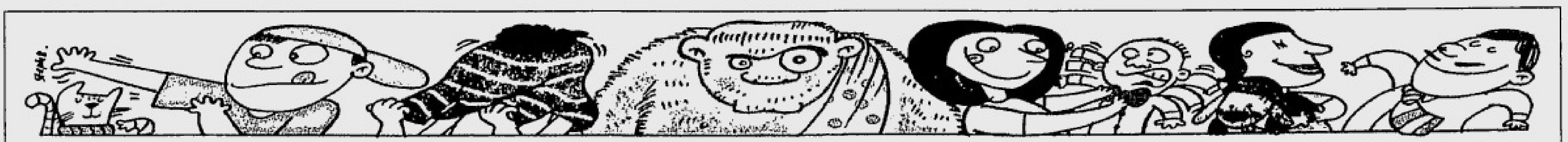
"The Philippines currently has no unified system for assigning strength and quality to lumber for construction. Lumber producers generally classify products according to species, color and weight, or country of origin. On the other hand, traders rely on size and species."

The need for standardization becomes imperative, and this is where stress grading comes in. The technique can determine lumber strength and stiffness through systematic sorting into groups based on stress grades (based on certain structural design properties).

Because of locally increased substitution of lesser-known tree species over commonly used species belonging to the same stress group, producers and consumers will both benefit. Stress grading reduces material waste and provides quality control.

An international workshop on lumber stress grading will be held on Sept. 2-4 at the FPRDI with delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Japan, Korea and Brazil. For details call the director's office at (0063-49) 536-2360 or 2377, e-mail fprdi@laguna.net or visit the website http://www.uplb.edu.ph/fprdi.

The FPRDI is located at the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources campus in College, Laguna.



How modesty prevailed

PEOPLE wear clothes for many reasons: to avoid getting wet, to go swimming, to avoid the sun, to get a tan, to attract attention, to avoid unwanted attention, to avoid being arrested for public indecency and, my personal favorite, to be able to go out without carrying a bag. (Did you know that cargo pants pockets can hold three CDs each?)

While it's not hard to assume that people started wearing clothes for practical reasons (surviving the Ice Age may have come down to choosing between stinky bloody animal pelts and banana leaves), the question remains: when did people start wearing clothes all the time?

In the Aug. 19 issue of Current Biology, Dr. Mark Stoneking and his colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany say that the answer is 40,000 to 70,000 years ago.

They base their answer on the body louse, a cousin of the head louse which resides in people's clothes and can't live without a human host for more than 24 hours.

By looking at the mitochondrial DNA of the body louse, which traces the maternal lineage of an organism and has no mutations over generations (although they do take into account any genetic changes made over time), and by comparing their test data with that from close lice relative chimpanzee lice, Stoneking et al. were able to date the body louse's existence to the 70,000 year mark.

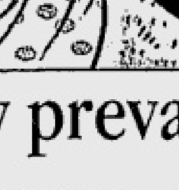
As Dr. Stoneking is also a proponent of the theory that man came from Africa approximately 100,000 years ago and then migrated in every direction possible, he says that the 70,000 year date suggests that man found clothing a necessity in order to explore and survive in the various climates around the globe.

In the interim period between hairiness and clothing, various studies suggest they had skin pigmentation variations to help protect them from or be exposed to more sunlight, depending on where in the world they were situated.

And yet in the interim man was still fairly hairy. So why would he need clothes if he had fur to keep him protected?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon



Hairless man

One of the proponents of Darwin's theory of evolution back in the 19th century was a naturalist by the name of Thomas Belt, who hypothesized that man became hairless for health reasons. (I'm not sure who Edgar Rice Burroughs should credit for the hairless ape-turned-Lord of the Jungle named Tarzan—Belt or Darwin.)

Parasites such as ticks, fleas and lice abound in fur, which is why there are so many products that promise to end the problem in your pet dog or cat. These parasites carry various illnesses and diseases that can be transmitted to their hosts.

In his paper for the International Journal for Parasitology back in 1999, immunological ecologist Dr. Markus Rantala of the University of Jyväskylä in Finland says that when man decided to start hunting in groups as opposed to doing it on their own or within their own immediate families, social grooming (when people used to sit on the front steps of their houses meticulously combing each other's hair to search out and destroy any head lice) died out. With more men to help hunt for food, the women and children could be excused from taking part in this activity and worry about domestic problems such as looking for a nice little cave to live in and how to make it more comfortable.

It should be pointed out that fleas love continually occupied abodes because they can focus on having lots of little fleas and all that instead of trying to find a place to have babies in the first place.

So the humans settled down, and so did the parasites, and people sickened and died. Until someone realized that the less hairy people could find the fleas and ticks and lice with more ease and had longer life spans.

Eventually hairlessness (and that vast expanse of healthy skin exposed for all to see) became the preferred look, and that's how it's been ever since.

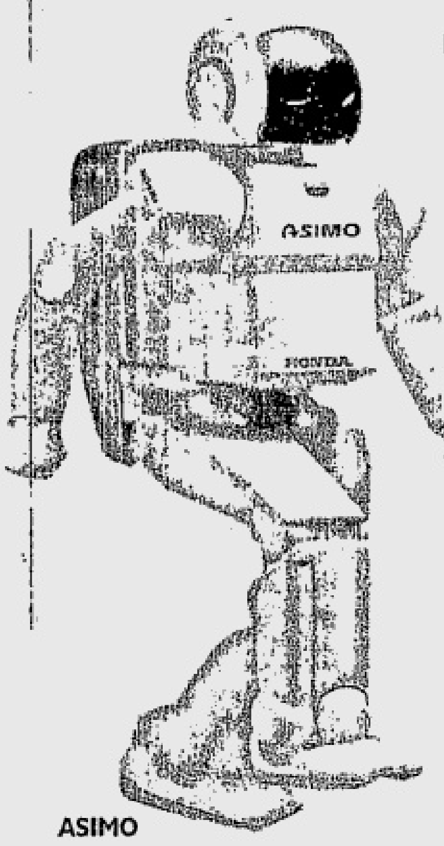
As good as Belt's hypothesis sounds though, the biggest question it raises is: if man decided it was healthier to be hairless, why didn't the other primates think it was a good idea to do the same thing?

There has to be another reason man decided to lose the hair and go with clothing. Besides, if they'd wanted to show off the healthy skin and stay free of lice forever, wouldn't they have decided nudity was the best option?

If anyone out there has any thoughts or opinions on this matter, feel free to share.

(E-mail massie@massie.com.)

Honda robot: Future caregiver, firefighter



ASIMO

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE WORLD'S first walking humanoid robot, Asimo, is being developed to bring medicines to sick people, carry objects up a flight of stairs and perform tasks dangerous to humans like fight fires or handle toxic wastes in the future.

This was revealed by the Honda Robot Research and Development team during a press conference in Manila where Asimo was presented.

Asimo, whose name is an acronym for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility, is currently on a world tour.

Asimo—considered a "he" by its creator-engineers—is likened to a 4-foot-tall, 10-year-old boy. But by human standards, Asimo is overweight for his height at 115 pounds.

Asimo's gait is a bit slow for humans—at 1.6 km per hour (compared to the average person's five kph pace). He can turn in any direction while walking and can climb stairs in one smooth flow, but in slow motion.

Asimo's ability to mimic the way humans walk is due to the advanced program I-Walk (Intelligent Real Time Flexible Walking).

Asimo's legs and feet aren't his only wonders. His arms and hands enable him to perform human tasks such as switching lights, moving objects and opening and closing doors.

Asimo is the result of 14 years of development involving seven experimental models and prototypes. In 1986, Honda engineers started work on humanoid robots by mastering the principle of walking.

Honda engineers wanted to design a robot that could duplicate the complexities of human motion and eventually help people.

With a walking, working Asimo now a reality, can a running, office-worker Asimo be far behind?

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Odontoma

MY son's right canine has been out for a year already but I am still waiting for his left canine to erupt. Is there something wrong?

Cheryl C.

It would be best to take an X-ray and find out where the left canine is. Canines usually erupt at the same time but if one is very delayed then it might be possible to see in an X-ray what prevents the left canine from erupting. Most likely it is an odontoma, which is an extra tooth that did not form very well and is not erupting itself. The solution is the surgical removal of this odontoma which can be done under local anesthesia.

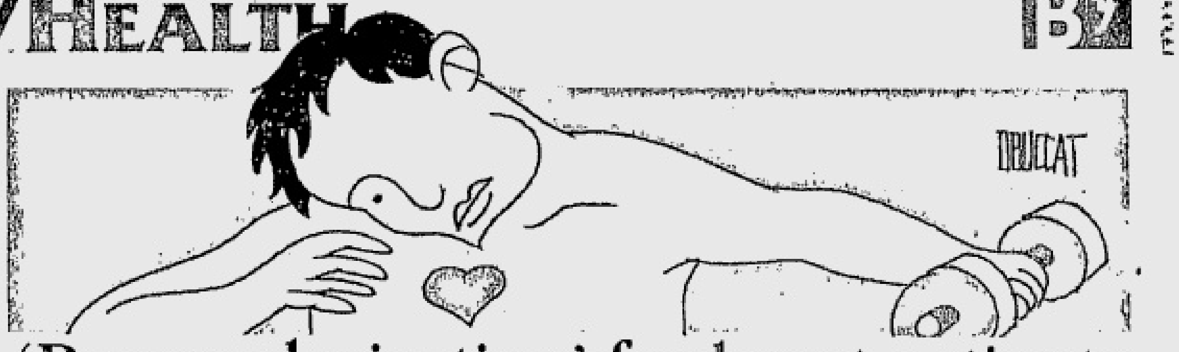
(E-mail your questions dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

PGH offering postgrad course

THE FOUNDATION for the Advancement of Surgical Education Inc. of the Department of Surgery, Philippine General Hospital, will hold its annual postgraduate course "Master in Surgery 2003: Practical Innovations in Surgical Care" on Sept. 10-12 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Malate, Manila. A postcongress workshop on ultrasound will be conducted on Sept. 13 at the PGH.

The Chancellor Alfredo T. Ramirez Memorial Lecture, one of the course highlights, will be delivered this year by the country's most prominent colorectal surgeon, Dr. Carlos M. Magsanoc.

For details call Dr. Teodoro Herbosa or Nette Mercado at 524-1144, 521-8450 local 2257.



'Revascularization' for heart patients

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

DR. ROGELIO Tangco, a fellow cardiologist and one of the finest in town, tells of a 42-year-old businessman of Adonis physique, evidently a gym enthusiast who developed a heart attack. Before discharge from the hospital, a treadmill stress test was done which showed ischemic changes (areas still lacking in oxygen) in the heart at a low level of exercise. This meant he still had a high predisposition to have another heart attack in the months to follow.

Since he was already feeling fine, it was hard to convince him to undergo coronary angiography, which is a procedure visualizing the heart arteries to find out the occluded parts. He was in fact eager to go back to the gym.

Concerned relatives convinced him to agree to the procedure, which showed diffuse obstruction in the major heart arteries. The patient was advised more aggressive treatment in the form of revascularization, but the patient refused and never followed up.

Dr. Tangco suspects that he is somewhere out there looking for another opinion, hoping for some cure or treatment.

So, what is revascularization which heart patients might have heard their doctor talk about?

Coronary bypass

When medicines don't work anymore, the doctor considers more aggressive interventions to restore circulation to the parts of the heart deprived of oxygen and essential nutrients. This is revascularization and involves either by-pass surgery or angioplasty.

Coronary bypass, or CABG, reroutes or detours the circulation by bypassing the occluded parts of the heart arteries using veins from the legs or arteries from the chest (internal mammary arteries). CABG is indicated if the heart artery lesions involve three or more vessels (triple-vessel disease) or the main artery (left main lesion) especially in the presence of weakening of the heart muscles or heart failure.

If these indications are present, CABG surgery is associated with longer survival than medical treatment, especially in high risk and medium risk patients.

"For sure most heart patients will frown at the idea of having his chest cracked and his legs disfigured with a scar that runs from thigh to ankle," Dr. Tangco says. "The fear of surgery and the fear of a potential brain damage stemming from having the heart stop beating and detouring blood to an artificial oxygenator is hard to overcome in some people. But it may be the best option for them to prevent a heart attack which could turn out to be fatal."

Coronary angioplasty

Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, or PTCA, is done by inserting a balloon-tipped catheter through the artery in the groin up to the heart, inflating the balloon once the catheter tip reaches the occluded portion of the heart artery to "ease off" the obstruction.

"Angioplasty is controlled injury," says Dr. Tangco. "By applying the inflated balloons, we widen the lumen of the occluded vessels but in so doing the intima, or lining of the heart artery, is injured."

And when there is injury in the inner lining of the heart, fibrous scar formation leading to restenosis or reocclusion of that part may take place. This may happen in a third of patients undergoing PTCA after a period of time usually within six months after the procedure. And this may be hard to accept in some patients. They spent a fortune to have the procedure done only to be back to square one after several months.

Hence the angioplasty technology has evolved. There are now new gadgets to address restenosis and to improve the long-term outcome of PTCA. Lasers, rotablators, atherectomy devices, hot balloons, cutting balloons and stents were devised to address the problem of restenosis.

Steel scaffoldings

Stents are stainless steel "scaffoldings" in the area of balloon inflation, and are clearly the most promising of the devices as they hold back the recoil of the dilated artery.

However, blood clot formation in the stainless steel struts was initially the major obstacle to its use. This problem is now being addressed by the newer stents which are treated with chemicals to prevent blood clots.

The challenge in most instances is to convince the asymptomatic or chest pain-free heart attack patient to have revascularization.

In the patient cited by Dr. Tangco, his stress test portends another heart attack in the near future, an event which could prove fatal. More often than not, these patients (and their families) wait for recurrence of pain before consenting, and sadly it is not infrequent that the recurrent event is accompanied by more dire situations such as circulatory shock and fatal arrhythmia or irregular beating of the heart.

And when that happens, it might be too late already.

If you're the breadwinner of the family, you don't want to wait this long and take the risk, do you?

Treating and living with a 'beautiful mind'

REMEMBER the movie "A Beautiful Mind," the Oscar's winner for Best Picture two years ago? It featured the life of John Nash, a math genius who was once a Nobel Prize winner. However, what was more significant about this movie was that, through Nash's struggles with his mind, the world was made more aware of the life-altering and frequently misunderstood disease, schizophrenia.

Yes, Nash was also schizophrenic and his brilliant accomplishments, including his Nobel Prize award, came after he was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Recurrent mental illness

Schizophrenia is a recurrent mental disorder with no permanent cure, but its symptoms can be controlled through proper therapy including antipsychotic medications. And patients can successfully manage their illness, live normal lives and accomplish great things like Nash.

This and other developments in the management of schizophrenia were discussed by Dr. Ma. Luz Casimiro-Querubin, a well-respected psychiatrist and a fellow of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, in a scientific symposium held recently at the Manila Galleria Suites.

Schizophrenia is a chronic mental illness that affects the way the brain receives and interprets information from the outside world. It is an illness that affects one's thinking and judgment, and impairs a person's ability to reason logically, organize and communicate thoughts, and function in society.

Schizophrenics are already out of touch with reality and believe their fantasies, hallucinations and delusions as reality. They may present with the following signs and symptoms: hallucinations and altered sense of self; bizarre behavior; loss of motivation; withdrawal from an active social life; poor speech and thought; flattened emotions; loss of former interests and pleasures; depression, anxiety, hostility; and tendency to commit suicide.

Treatment

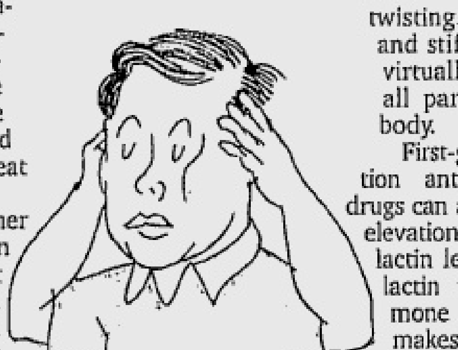
If a relative or friend has any or several of the above symptoms, it's best to take him to a psychiatrist immediately for proper evaluation and prompt treatment.

Treatment consists of psychotherapy, psychosocial support of family and friends, and antipsychotic medications.

Antipsychotic medications are considered the mainstay in the treatment of schizophrenia, and the focus is on the ability of the drugs to improve the patient's quality of life. "While all antipsychotic drugs are comparable, one should consider medications that will rapidly control acute symptoms, facilitate remission and reduce incidence of relapse," Dr. Querubin emphasized.

Antipsychotic drugs

The first-generation antipsychotic drugs can lead to a high incidence of the so-called extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) and eventually tardive dyskinesia (TD), which may present as involuntary blinking, lip-licking, tongue-twitching or foot-tapping to the more extreme twisting, jerking and stiffening of virtually any or all parts of the body.

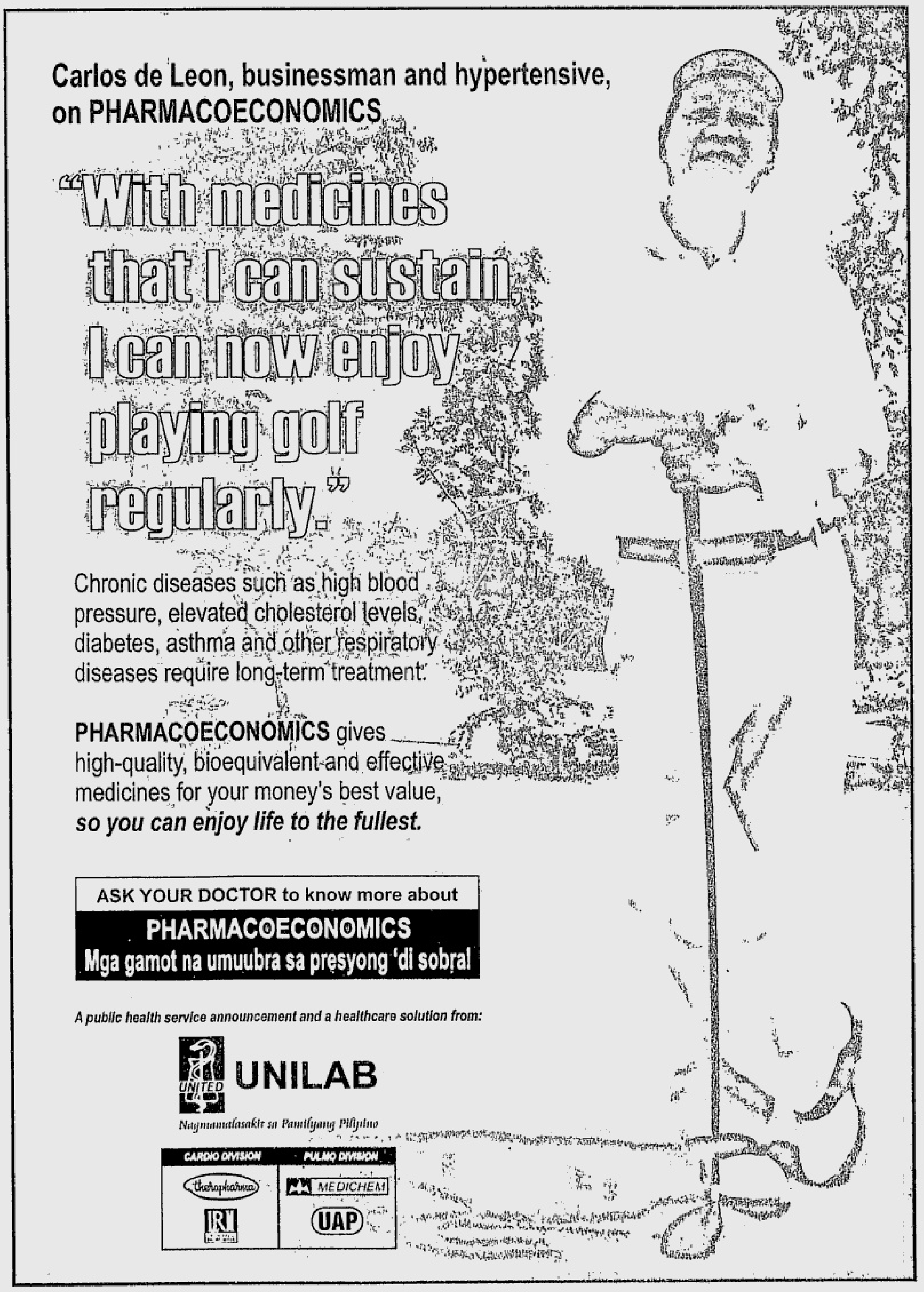


First-generation antipsychotic drugs can also cause elevation of prolactin levels. Prolactin is a hormone that makes women produce milk and is responsible for breast enlargement. It is also associated with hostility and depression. The second-generation antipsychotic drugs are relatively better tolerated but still have a questionable dose-dependent side-effect and they also elevate prolactin levels.

According to Dr. Querubin, olanzapine (brand name Zyprexa) is a novel antipsychotic medication that has shown increased efficacy with a lower incidence of EPS than that seen with conventional antipsychotic medications. She also presented clinical trials showing that olanzapine demonstrated no significant increase in serum prolactin.

Many local psychiatrists agree that olanzapine is a big boost in the treatment of schizophrenia which can improve the quality of life of patients because of an effective control of schizophrenic symptoms and better tolerability. It is a prescription product and should only be used with a doctor's advice.

A schizophrenic patient is like a light bulb turned on and off. However, with the persevering support of relatives and friends plus effective and better tolerated antipsychotic medications such as olanzapine, schizophrenic patients may expect a better quality of life and move on with life to accomplish great things like John Nash.


Carlos de Leon, businessman and hypertensive, on PHARMACOECONOMICS

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STI
established 1983
20
years

Breeding ground for successful people

By Joel V. Nigos

SEVERAL years ago, they were your ordinary people who had simple wishes in life. Coming from different backgrounds, varied situations thrust them into information technology, or to put it succinctly, to STI where their skills were honed.

But while all of us have our dreams, what distinguished these people from the everyday man was that they worked toward the fulfillment of these dreams. And STI provided them the environment for their dreams to flutter.

Here we share their life stories, which just show that success in life does not discriminate.

'Global Pinoy'

Even before STI had coined the term "Global Pinoy" and the idea of knowledge-based workers, Stanley Dimain knows that STI had already developed him into one.

He said: "Aside from the technical skills, we also focused on our other strengths. For example, if we are good in programming, we knew how to use it given a situation. We had to learn other skills other than what we were supposed to use. It is not enough that one is a good programmer; one has also to learn how to be an entrepreneur so he can market himself more effectively."

Dimain had long dreamt of becoming a soldier. His father, who was an instructor of the US Marines in Subic, inspired him. His initial plan was to take up nautical engineering then pursue a military career. That was when he thought of taking up an IT course first before teaching military servicemen to be computer literate.

But after finishing his computer programming in Cobol language course at STI Olongapo in the early '90s, he never looked back.

After graduation, Dimain taught IT in business administration at another school. He then returned to STI initially as teacher at its Cubao and Edsa Crossing branches. Eventually, he became the school's academic auditor for the whole network of STI branches, and then later, a product manager at the head office. He is now an area manager working closely with the schools to continuously improve the delivery of service to students.

Dimain's experience as a teacher brought him to as far as STI in Samar, Zamboanga, Baguio and Ilocos, where he shared the latest IT trends to aspiring IT professionals.

Lawyer turned techie

Inspired by the courtroom battles he saw in the TV program "L.A. Law" and the movie "A Few Good Men," John Discallar had earlier set his eyes on defending people in court.

"I thought of being a lawyer," he said. "The job of lawyers I saw in those programs excited me, though I knew it was hard."

But a friend convinced him to enroll in STI, saying that a computer job may not be as glamorous as the law profession, but it was equally demanding.

"My friend said that I should enroll at STI because I would be assured of the quality education it offers. It also helped that STI provides affordable courses. There was value for money there," he said.

Discallar took up Cobol Programming at STI Recto in 1994, and finished the course at STI Quezon Avenue. During the course of his studies, he became a student assistant maintaining computers and helping out front liners.

After graduation, he was invited to join the food company Andok's. He then gave in to a much tempting offer from Mindanao Textile.

Discallar is now in charge of procurement, testing and installation, and evaluation of new software for his company. Discallar said the main challenge for him is to make the company's operations more efficient and cost-effective.

Discallar said he owes much of his success to STI. "Not only did the school give me the means to get a high-paying job, it also provided much needed comfort for my family," he said. He added that he has no regrets discarding his dream in the law profession because, "after all, I still make a difference in other people's lives."

Fulfilled with his work

Though he wanted to be an architect, Rollie Bartolome wasn't able to pursue his dreams because his family's printing press business tied him down.

He later became bored with his work and found out he was no longer challenged by it, seeing his work in the family business as very simple and routine. He thought of taking up a computer course as a way out.

He soon realized that getting a computer education excited him more. He also learned about the many opportunities computer education offered.

"I saw the big potential of the IT industry even when we were only taking up Cobol," he said. "That convinced me more to pursue the steps that I had taken."

After finishing his two-year course at STI Makati in 1996, Bartolome underwent on-the-job training (OJT) at Fuji Xerox Philippines. He was later hired as one of its regular staff because of his above average performance.

"STI gave me the opportunity to be what I am today," he said. "Because of the skills I learned at STI which I applied in my work, I was able to buy my own house and car. It also gave me the sense of fulfillment that I am able to provide for my family."

Not for priesthood

Andru Lanceta pursued priesthood for two-and-a-half years until he eventually discovered he was not meant for the vocation.

Enticed by friends, he took up a computer course that would enhance his graphic arts skills at STI Montepino. He later found himself loving programming.

He added that the virtues he learned from the seminary, such as patience and discipline, proved beneficial for him as he was able to apply them when he was making tedious computer programs.

He now works as a Web/events designer at Fuji Xerox. His job allows him to apply his artistic and design talents through the company's internal marketing communications requirements.

Lanceta said he doesn't regret his decision to leave the seminary. He said, "My education at STI is really of great help to me. It enhanced my graphic design skills. Now, I am also more confident that I will be able to open my own design studio in the future. I guess I just happened to find another calling," he added.

Victorious overseas

Nelson Mendoza Rance worked as a janitor-messenger at STI Edsa Crossing in 1991. Seizing the opportunity at his fingertips, he took up Cobol Programming through a scholarship program for employees.

Believing that education would be his only way to improve his lot, he studied conscientiously while putting in eight hours of time at his work. He even helped his mother feed their livestock with slops gathered from neighbors. He was later recognized for his efforts as he was awarded both as a model student and an employee.

Rance completed his course a year later. He then landed a job as computer operator at Provident Insurance Co. where he became head computer operator until he left the company in December 1994.

He then searched for better opportunities until he went abroad for the first time in December 1998 to work for the Saudi Telephone Co. as programmer/analyst. Today, he is the systems analyst and information officer for the King Fahad National Guard National Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Her mission in life

Recy Narciso Garde, meanwhile, was one of the first graduates of STI Edsa Crossing in 1986.

After she earned her programming degree, she underwent on-the-job training at Ayala Land Corp. then worked as a junior programmer for the Surigao Mining Co. She soon realized that working for a non-profit organization with a mission to help poor people would give her the sense of fulfillment.

Garde joined the overseas computer operations of CARE, USA, a nonprofit relief organization that provides assistance to developing countries through food and development programs. She became part of a three-man team responsible for creating and maintaining programs used by the mission. One of the programs her team created was the Commodity Management System, an accounting software developed to monitor relief commodities for poor countries.

She also involved herself with installing and training the local staff on how to use the Food Program software. The staff members come from Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Haiti.

Garde has two pieces of advice to STI students: "Do your best in all your endeavors and never sell yourself short." She now lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her husband and three children.

STI ushers in
as it embarks

By Joel V. Nigos

IT WAS not long ago when STI was envisioned by four well-meaning professionals deeply involved in information technology. It was the frenzied years of the '80s then, Aug. 21, 1983 to be exact, a time when most Filipinos were still unfamiliar with the new machine.

During that time, the microcomputer was becoming a tool for the offices necessitating a demand for programmers, encoders and other computer-literate workers. The pressing demand led to the establishment of STI as an immediate response to meet the need.

Since then, STI has opened the doors of education centers and colleges nationwide, providing education all over the archipelago. New programs were taught in its schools as soon as they became available. Later, the school figured in key partnerships with IT giants in its bid to strengthen its curriculum. And more recently, it focused its efforts in reaching out to the most number of people by providing ICT-enhanced education to professionals, to undergraduates, and down to the kids.

Today, as STI celebrates its 20th anniversary, the school that initially aimed to provide affordable ICT education is shifting its thrust to broaden its scope and further widen its reach as an educational institution.

Knowledge-based workers

According to Peter Fernandez, STI's senior vice president for education management, the school is now focusing on human resource development, specifically to hone knowledge-based workers. Knowledge-based workers, he says, is what STI

describes as the "Global Pinoy."

"The idea here is not only to produce technically competent people but a well-rounded workforce. This is because we just don't want our graduates to be very limited with their skills," says Fernandez.

Mitch Andaya, vice president of the Learning Systems Division and Dean and COO of iAcademy, an STI subsidiary, explains that "knowledge-based workers are people equipped with both functional and emotional competencies."

"Functionally, they are multi-skilled, technically competent, digitally literate. They are also well-grounded individuals who are self-driven, creative, flexible, embrace a global mindset, and most importantly, have the right set of values and work ethics."

Essentially, the knowledge-based worker or the "Global Pinoy" is one who knows what he needs, knows where to find it, knows how to use it and is within legal and ethical bounds when he uses his knowledge. This is consistent with the thrust of STI throughout th
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STI-FLITE: Addressing RP's digital divide via socio-civic programs

IN THIS age of computers and high technology, the Philippines has lagged in Asia as it wrestles with a broad digital divide.

While students in Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan are exposed daily to computers because they have access to PCs and laptops in school and at home, many Filipino students have never even seen a computer in their lives.

This scenario inspired the STI Foundation for Leadership in Information Technology and Education Inc. (STI-FLITE) to initiate effective socio-civic programs with the primary goal of bridging the digital divide through quality education for the Filipino youth.

Established by the STI Education Services Group, STI-FLITE seeks to contribute to the improvement of the country's educational system through programs and projects that address the digital divide and promote excellence in education.

Ongoing programs

Currently, there are four major programs under STI-FLITE, namely: Project ATTRAC, the Teacher Training Program, the Shared Knowledge Program and Scholarship Programs.

Project ATTRAC or Adaptive Technology Training, Resource and Access Center provides comprehensive computer literacy training courses to visually impaired high school graduates, college students, college dropouts or young professionals. The program utilizes adaptive or access technology—a range of specialized equipment, hardware and software applications that are designed or modified to meet the special needs of students with visual impairment.

Because of its pioneering efforts of providing computer education for the visually impaired, Project ATTRAC was recognized by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) with the 2001 Kabalikat Award for Institutions.

So far, Project ATTRAC has helped 29 visually impaired young adults who are computer literate. Out of this number, four have already advanced to the regular computer-related certificate and degree courses in STI shools, making STI the first and only computer education school in the country with an existing program for visually impaired students.

STI College
Cubao
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FOUNDATION FOR LEADERSHIP IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION
FLITE

STI-FLITE has also partnered with the Department of Education (DepEd) and local government units in improving ICT literacy among public school teachers and students. Through the "Teacher Training Program," selected public high school teachers are taught the proper knowledge and skills in using technology to deliver learning and to help them in their day-to-day tasks.

The "Shared Knowledge Program" are one-day sessions specially designed to provide public high school students hands-on training seminars on the basic usage and operation of MS Windows, creation of simple documents using MS Word, and the ability to browse and use the Internet. The program aims to aid the students in properly using the computer to help them in their academic requirements when they proceed to higher education.

STI-FLITE's Scholarship Programs, meanwhile, help bring educational opportunities to the less privileged. STI-FLITE has also forged tie-ups with socio-civic organizations such as the Don Bosco Parish, Caritas Manila and the Reach Youth Foundation to help educate former street children.

Also, through its partnerships with various government agencies and offices, STI FLITE has provided education to hundreds of students, out-of-school youth, teachers, soldiers, and other public servants.

Slowly and surely, STI-FLITE is on its way to bridging the country's digital divide in due time through these various initiatives.

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the 'Global Pinoy' on its 20th year

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points out that in nursing, for example most of the machines used in hospitals now, especially in developed countries are computerized. This makes knowledge in IT-enhanced nursing courses advantageous to the graduate.

In addition to the qualities being taught to produce a "Global Pinoy," Fernandez for his part, says that learning how to think and act like an entrepreneur is also one aspect STI instills in its students. Given the reality of jobs getting scarce, the options would either be to get a job that is not related to one's course or not get a job at all. "With this new thinking, if the graduate cannot land a job, he would create a job for himself," he stresses.

Educator of choice

He also bares that STI would be priming itself up to be the "educator of choice" not only in IT but in non-IT courses as well.

"We are really driving to be the educator of choice. We feel that our system here is very unique and we don't see other schools doing it.

Some are just in the initial stages of developing a system similar to what we have," Fernandez says.

The Global Pinoy concept of STI will be imbued to its more than 60,000 students nationwide. This would be easy because STI follows a standardized courseware for teaching and students are thus exposed to the same quality education STI gives wherever they are enrolled.

"We continuously work on updating our content and introducing new learning technologies at the same time, making it affordable to most people. This is very important to us— affordable education. I believe this is where STI has made its mark," Fernandez says.

STI now has 104 education centers and colleges nationwide, of which 56 are colleges that offer diploma and baccalaureate courses and 48 are education centers providing two-year courses and less. It also counts 12 schools in its network offering basic education from prep all the way up to high school.

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students and resumés online umé databank. stem enable the resumés, seek r them anytime gh the Internet. other hand, will nd validate recruitment status. The resumé databank will also serve as directory for all current STI students and alumni.

Through I-CARES, STI is able to put a premium on its student and alumni career services. This also provides for STI alumni tracking, helping the school identify the growth of its alumni in their respective careers.

On the part of local as well as foreign employers, this offers them a cost-effective automated solution to the current manual system of filtering resumés. This would make hiring prospective applicants for certain positions a lot easier.

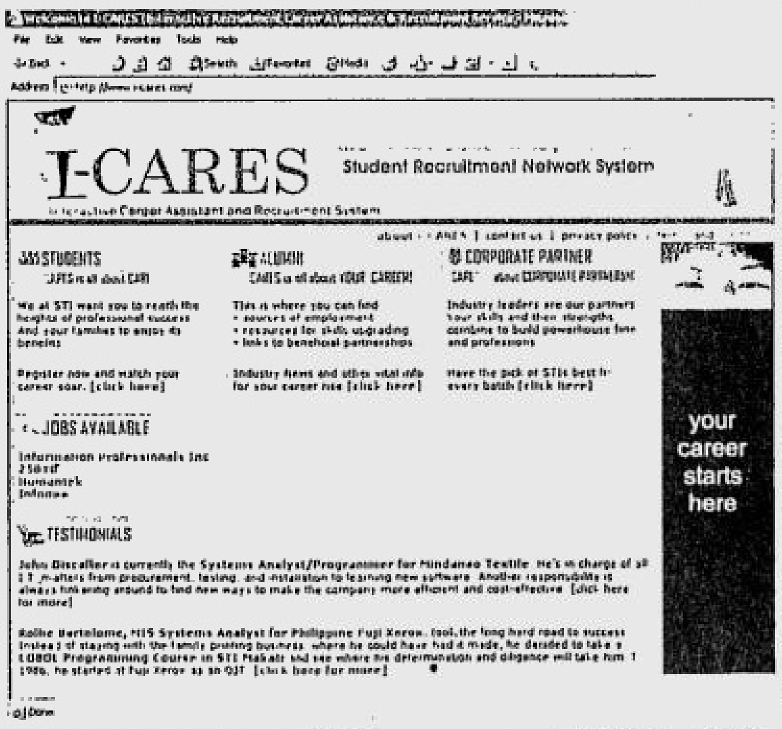
Since the system is online, this also provides a "virtual" event platform for STI to operate online job fairs, career chat sessions and Web-based interviews with employers.

How it works

All STI students especially the graduating students and alumni are asked to encode their resumés in the system. They can choose either to fill out resumé templates or apply for a posted job opening and fill out a resumé specific to that job. Updates can be done online anytime from anywhere, provided one has an Internet connection.

STI branches and its corporate partners can post internal and/or external job opportunities. They can also view applicants or search the database for existing resumés.

Since the whole network can view job openings posted by a branch, graduates who are willing to be relocated will have an easier time applying. Corporate users, meanwhile, can also generate various customized reports from the system such as list of graduating students per course per year, total number of graduates per course per year, employment status, etc. All STI schools are provided collaterals such as posters, computer monitor toppers and students' easy access guide for encoding. *Joel V. Nigos*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your career starts here

I-CARES
Student Recruitment Network System
Interactive Career Assistant and Recruitment System

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STUDENTS

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Register now and watch your career soar. [click here]

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• sources of employment
• resources for skills upgrading
• links to beneficial partnerships

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Humantek
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TESTIMONIALS

John Discallar is currently the Systems Analyst/Programmer for Mindanao Textile. He's in charge of all I.T. matters from procurement, testing, and installation to learning new software. Another responsibility is always thinking around to find new ways to make the company more efficient and cost-effective. [click here for more]

Rolhe Bartolome, MIS Systems Analyst for Philippine Fuji Xerox, took the long hard road to success. Instead of staying with the family printing business, where he could have had it made, he decided to take a COBOL Programming Course in STI Makati and see where his determination and diligence will take him. In 1986, he started at Fuji Xerox as an OJT. [click here for more]

[illegible] that aims [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] g jobs [illegible]

LUMNI HOMECOMING

g: Sarap Balikan!

h year with the bal Pinoy," the also hosting a alumni.

relations man- necoming aims ich STI alumni between them ng themselves. he event would r cities around

were already t Springs and na last Aug. 2, Polo Hotel in Sacred Heart The homecom- la will be held Hotel Plaza and Warehouse, re-

At the homecoming, alumni would be treated to exciting games, live entertainment and fun-filled activities. New STI graduates or alumni who want to explore other opportunities would have their hands full with the Job Fair Booth. There is also the Memory Lane Booth which features memorabilia items depicting the history and the humble beginnings of STI. A flashback booth, where alumni can pose for free photos, a souvenir shop or a mini fair and games add to the festivities.

The main program will highlight the launching of the I-CARES and the alumni websites. There will be door prizes on the side and of course, the renewing of the alumni's pledge to the alma mater.

With renewed ties and new doors opened for new opportunities, STI alumni who would take time out to be part of the event would surely be saying that indeed, "STI: Ang Sarap Balikan."

For further inquiries, you may contact the STIAA Secretariat at (02) 810-8100 or e-mail alumni@stihq.net. *Joel V. Nigos*

The homecoming aims to provide a venue by which STI alumni can reestablish linkages between them and their school and among themselves

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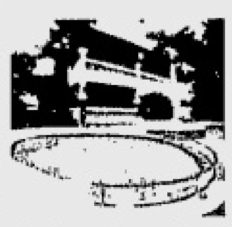

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South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Budget of the Project to be bid	Source of Budget
TRANS-03-RCSAGL-EG-04. Repair of Corroded Stub Angles of Tower Nos. 195, 193, 177, 171 & 147 along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Lines	Gumaca, Quezon & Labo, Camarines, Norte	60 calendar days	P383,049.44	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of Furnishing of All Labor, Materials, Supplies, Tools, Equipment, Supervision & Other Incidentals necessary for the Repair of Corroded Stub Angles of Tower Nos. 195, 193, 177, 171 & 147 along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Lines.

Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB. *(Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB Special License for this projet).*

License Particular	at least "Trade-General Building"
Registration Particular	at least "Small A – Building & Industrial Plant" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting August 25, 2003 up to September 11, 2003 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No., 520-6213 and E-mail Address, (rdramas@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of a non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 A.M. of September 12, 2003 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication shall be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. *(Note: This invitation was based on the latest amendments dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 of Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 1594 & Executive Order 40).*

(Sgd) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 23, 2003)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONSORCIA A. GUEVARRA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 137, Page 28, Book XIX, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Fernando I. Collantes of Manila.(PDI-8 / 16, 23, & 30 2003)

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Rush Sale:Bar & Resto Salcedo Vill. Makati 0919-4299141/8470398/8572135

TESDA

Technical Education & Skills Development Authority

Invitation for Tenders

Invitation for Tender No. ICB-EDET-01-03

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received loan No. BMZ 2000 66 142 of EURO 7.338 million from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET) Project, implemented by the technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for tenders is issued.
2. TESDA now invites sealed tenders from eligible tenderers for the supply of training equipment, tools, publications, computer and audio-visual equipment, accessories and consumables for the following lots:

   Lot 1 : Automotive
   Lot 2 : Electrical and Electronics
   Lot 3 : Metals and Engineering
   Lot 4 : Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology (HVACR)
   Lot 5 : Health Care
   Lot 6 : Shoe and Leather Goods
   Lot 7 : Agriculture
   Lot 8 : Fisheries
   Lot 9 : Computer Equipment and Audio-Visual Equipment
   Lot 10 : Educational Furniture

   Tenders shall be submitted for all items within any lot and will be evaluated and awarded on a lot basis.
3. Eligible tenderers are manufacturers or suppliers without limitation to nationality. The formation of a consortium is acceptable, provided a lead partner is designated. A tenderer not established in the Philippines is required to have an authorized agent or local branch in the Philippines, capable of rendering after-service, including handling of warranty claims as well as technical support of equipment included in the tendered lots.
4. There is no restriction on the origin of the goods to be offered.
5. Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of TESDA or in Germany (KfW) at the address below.
6. The tender documents may be purchased by interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to TESDA at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EURO 80 or Philippine Pesos 5000 to defray the cost of tendering. Foreign tenderers shall deposit their payment for purchase of Tender Documents thru Bank Transfer to: BSP Account Number 021085295 Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCD Dollar Account.
7. Alternatively, the tender documents may be obtained in Germany (KfW), for further information please refer to bfai (www.bfai.de)
8. All banking charges and fees related to the purchase of the bidding documents such as bank transfer shall be for tenderer's account. Bank's Checks are not acceptable. The tender documents may be sent through e-mail (if agreed by the tenderer), courier or collected in CD-ROM format by the authorized representative of the tenderer from the office stated below following the receipt by TESDA or KfW of a written request quoting tender No. ICB-EDET-01-03, providing contact details of company and document confirming payment of the tender documents.
9. Tenders must be delivered at the address of TESDA as stated below on or before 0900 hours (local time) on October 15, 2003 and must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid price in EURO. Tenders will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who choose to attend at 0920 hours (local time), on October 15, 2003.
   A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 24, 2003 at 1400 hours.
   Further information may be obtained from the Property and Supply Division, TESDA at telephone number +63-2-893-8296.

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
Attention: The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines
Telefax: No. +63-2-893-8306

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Project Director, EDETP
(Director General, TESDA)

(PDI–Aug. 17 & 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY under the Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	Materials Recovery Facility (Solid Waste Recycling Plant)
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	90 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Supply and Installation of Equipment

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid-Documents to pre-qualified bidders	From September 15-16, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	10:00 a.m., September 17, 2003
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 10:00 a.m., September 30, 2003

For issuance of Bidder's Pre-qualification Form and Plans/Bid Documents you may contact:

PBAC Technical Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Acting City Mayor

(PDI - Aug 14 & 23, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
DECS Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the Disposal Committee is inviting all interested entities to bid for the disposal of various unserviceable equipments/scrap materials situated at the DepEd Central Office, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

All interested entities may inspect all equipments/furniture and avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a letter of intent starting August 25-29, 2003 at the Property Division, Rizal Building II, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 3, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Property Division. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on September 10, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of bids. DepEd Disposal Committee further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Chairman
DepEd Central Office-Disposal Committee

(PDI–Aug 23, & 25, 2003)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the PROTECTION DIKE (Stone Masonry) for the Materials Recovery Facility under the Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply for the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	PROTECTION DIKE (Stone Masonry)
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	90 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Construction Works

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid-Documents to pre-qualified bidders	From September 15-16, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	10:00 a.m., September 17, 2003
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 10:00 a.m., September 30, 2003

For issuance of Bidder's Pre-qualification Form and Plans/Bid Documents you may contact:

PBAC Technical Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Acting City Mayor

(PDI - Aug 14 & 23, 2003)

TESDA

Republic of the Philippines
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

August, 2003
Loan No. 1750-PH. TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contract No. ADBTES-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and training of end-users representatives of various Computing Equipment for Educational Management Information Systems (EMIS) and Multimedia Equipment for Courseware Development (ADBTES-01).
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and training of end-users representatives of various items such as computers, servers, printers and other related equipment for use in TESDP.
3. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure, single stage one envelope, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document from 9:00-4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from August 18, 2003 at the address given in Item 10 below.
5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below beginning August 18, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,500.00 to the TESDA Cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila. Foreign bidders may pay US$45.00, payable to TESDA, through the following accounts:

   BSP Account No. 021085295 with Federal Reserve Bank of New York for further credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCD Dollar Account.

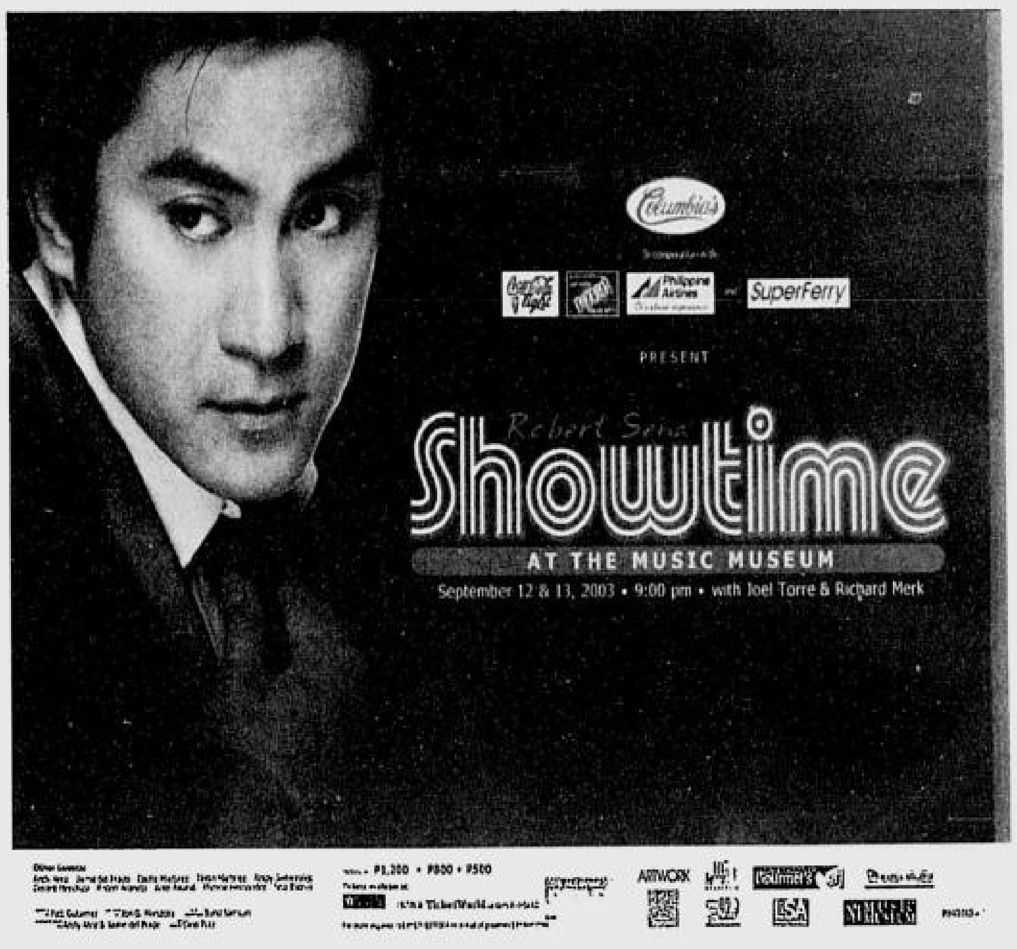
   The method of payment will either be in certified bank cheque or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A Pre-Bid Conference with interested eligible Bidders will be held on September 15, 2003, 2:00 pm at the address below, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. Bid must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon on October 15, 2003, accompanied with a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on October 15, 2003 at 2:00 PM.
8. TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
9. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the bidding document.
10. The address is:

    Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
    TESDA Compound
    East Service Road, South Superhighway
    Taguig, Metro Manila
    Philippines

    Contact : The Bid and Award Committee Chairman
    Telefax No.: +63-2-893-8306

(Sgd.) **DR. ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
(Project Director TESDP)
Director-General, TESDA

(PDI–Aug. 18 & 23, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the Raois - Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project under the Integrated Water Supply and Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	Proposed Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	240 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Supply and Installation of pipelines and fittings and Construction of related works

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid-Documents to pre-qualified bidders	From September 15-16, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	9:00 a.m., September 17, 2003
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 p.m., September 30, 2003

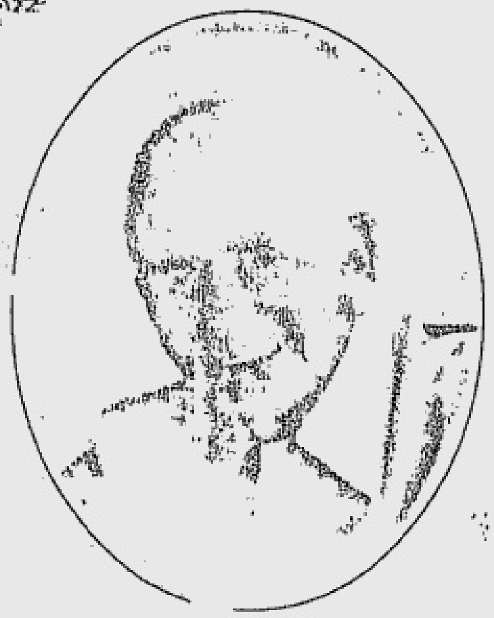
For issuance of Bidder's Pre-qualification Form and Plans/Bid Documents you may contact:

PBAC Technical Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Acting City Mayor

(PDI - Aug 14 & 23, 2003)



On his 93rd Birthday, August 23, 2003
we lovingly remember

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

Philanthropist. Industrialist.
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino.

Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.

A Special Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today
at the Menzi head office, 20th Floor, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Other Masses will also be offered at:

Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion *Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 a.m.	Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace *EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	8:00 a.m.	St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *San Antonio Village, Makati City*	7:00 a.m.	St. Joseph Parish Bamboo Organ Church *Las Piñas City*	6:00 a.m.
San Agustin Church *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Parish *Ermita, Manila*	7:15 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.	Sta. Cruz Parish *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 a.m.

The Menzi Family requests all pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

“...absent
with the
body
to be
present
with the
Lord.”
2 Corinthians 5:8

Message of Thanks

Pructuosa C. Guamen

August 23, 1924 to August 13, 2003

In commemoration of her 79th birthday, our family wishes to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the flowers, mass cards, kind donations, sincere prayers, caring thoughts, and the time that you shared with us in our moment of grief.

The Guamen children
& grandchildren

Lt. Col. Epifanio N. Lacson

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 19, 2003 at the age of 57.

He is survived by his wife **Ludy**; children **Robert Rey** and **Kerby**; brothers and sisters **Norma L. Aledia, Herminigildo, Gloria L. Pinga, Reynaldo, Pita L. Legaspi, Getulio, Julie L. Natividad** and **Cristina L. Cuenca**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at
194 Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 23, 2003 at the Melda Memorial Park, Imus, Cavite after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

Macario “Mac” Convento

Loving father, has joined our Creator on 20 August 2003. He was 66 years old.

He is survived by his wife **Soledad**; children **Macario Arthur** and **Lani Dawn, Evelyn** and **Samson, Gladys** and **Philip, Mark Anthony, Elenita** and **Carlo Mac**; his sister **Elenita**, brother **Perfecto Jr.**, and half sister **Nery**; grandchildren **Liana Dawn, Nikolas Robert, El Cid, Tom Vincent**, and **Bea Louis**.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Alvarez, Lopez Jaena, Cavite City. Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, 24 August 2003 at the Dona.Gregoria Memorial Cemetery, Wakas, Kawit, Cavite.

Our Dearly Beloved

Primitivo “TIBONG” A. Francisco

of Tondo, Sampaloc, Malabon, Biñan, Laguna
Born: June 6, 1916
Died: August 22, 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 87.

His beloved daughter **Ma. Concepcion "Chit" Oleta**, married to **Edgardo "Eddie" Oleta**; grandchildren **Chris** and **Jay, Ana** and **Olaf, Bambi** and **Pam, Jessica** and **Carlo**; great grandchildren **Nico, Christine, Chariza, Casandra, C.J., Justin, Joshua, Ivan, Gaea** and **Rayu**; brother **Carding**; sister **Luling**; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the University of Perpetual Help Chapel, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be at the family Mausoleum, Eternal Gardens, Biñan, Laguna after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, August 27, 2003.

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation".
(Mark 16:15)

REYNOLD P. DANNUG

(Focolarino)

August 9, 1947 - August 20, 2003)

We thank God for the gift that Rey has been for us, Madelene, Bimboy and Peng, Chibi, Tina and his relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2003 at the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Brixton Hill, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

ATTY. HORACIO S.J. APOSTOL

Died peacefully on August 20, 2003 at the age of 80.

His loving wife Emma; his children Agnes, Archie and Tessa, and Edmund; grandchildren Megan and Kusgan; relatives and friends request all pious readers to be united in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul as he joins our Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Remedy Chapel, Don Enrique Subd., Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

A Holy Mass will be celebrated today, August 23, 2003 at 12:00 noon at the Chapel, followed by the interment at 3:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

CLASSIFIEDS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for

Canteen Concessions in Colleges and Dormitories

B. Prospective bidders must meet the following basic requirements:
   1. At least one (1) million (P1,000,000.00) capitalization/stockholders equity;
   2. With existing canteen concession/s and two (2) years operational experience.

C. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:
   1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
   2. 2003 Business License/Permit
   3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked 'RECEIVED' by the BIR
   4. Company Profile
   5. List of clients (past and present) with corresponding contract costs, references and supporting documents
   6. List of company equipment and other assets
   7. Statement of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATION WILL BE LISTED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS

The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and property tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO

NOTE: ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D Deadline for submission: August 29, 2003
E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders
F. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the University.
G For further particular, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief-SPMO anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-6374 (direct line) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4911 and 4913, or contact Prof. Mary Delia G. Tomacruz, Director, U.P. Business Concessions Office (BCO) at Tel. No. 925-6996 and 920-5301 local 7926.

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI - Aug 16 & 23 2003)

Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 807-26-28 to 32 • Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND RE-BID
BAC-ITB NO. 2003-06

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the installation of Air Handling System for Negative Pressure Isolation Room (total of 8 rooms).

Only duly licensed firms, who carry this line of work/service are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from the Property & Supply Department, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

Schedule of Activities

a.)	Issuance of Bid Documents	August 25-29, 2003 September 1-2, 2003
b.)	Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements	September 4, 2003
c.)	Pre-bid Conference	September 8, 2003 1:30 p.m. Lecture Room 1, Training Center
d.)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	September 10, 2003 1:30 p.m. Lecture Room 1, Training Center

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference. Attendance to Pre-bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action.

The approved Budget for the Contract to be bidded is P5,123,863.00

(Sgd.) SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - August 23 and 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: *sssomail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE 4th QUARTER OF CY2003

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,500 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the fourth quarter of Year 2003 with the following specifications:

• Degree of Milling	Well Milled Rice (WMR)
• Moisture Content	14% (maximum)
• Grade Specifications	Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum) Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
• Packaging	50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
• Labeling	With front & back markings
• Delivery Terms	Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P1,000.00 per sack per employee
Source of Funding	Operating Expense - Rice Grant

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting August 22 to September 4, 2003. To cover the cost of the bidding documents, the eligible bidders shall be required to pay a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. For any inquiry, pls. call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on September 9, 2003.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Aug 23 2003)

On her FOURTH DEATH
ANNIVERSARY,
we lovingly remember
MOMMY, WHO IS
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...
SORELY MISSED BY ALL OF US.

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA-TICZON

(***wife*** of the late Philantropist, Corporate Lawyer **Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and ***eldest daughter*** of the late Statesman, Banker, First Mayor of Pasay City, Founder of RFC now called Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Philippine Airlines Chairman **Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the late Philantropist **Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2003

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	*5:00 A.M.*
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Parañaque*	*6:00 A.M.*
Mt. Carmel Shrine *Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City*	*6:00 A.M.*
St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	*6:00 A.M.*
Sanctuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal*	*6:30 A.M.*
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
St. John Bosco Parish *A. Arnaiz Ave., cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City*	*7:30 A.M.*
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	*5:00 P.M.*
Harrison Plaza Chapel *Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	*5:00 P.M.* *& 6:00 P.M.*
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 P.M.*
Malate Catholic Church *2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	*6:00 P.M.*
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan*	*6:00 P.M.*
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	*6:00 P.M.*
Our Lady of Assumption Parish *Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila*	*6:15 P.M.*
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills Mandaluyong City*	*6:15 P.M.*

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

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- **OTHELLO** and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMUND and ABIGAIL, MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA, TANIA ISABEL AND ROMEO III
- **BELEN** and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter ANTONIA
- **ROSSINA**
- **LOURDES** and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ
- **PORTIA** and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL
- **RUBEN** (deceased),

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BROTHERS, *TEDDY H. LOVINA and*
NONIE M. LOVINA,

BROTHERS IN LAW, *BERT ACOSTA and*
CONRADO R. TICZON,

SISTERS, *NING LOVINA-VILLAR and*
CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA,

SISTERS IN LAW, *DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,
NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

BUSINESS

BSP JUNKS BRIDGE BANC OFFER

Deutsche Bank to refinance $105-M MWSS loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved in principle a $105-million refinancing by Deutsche Bank of a one-year loan it had extended to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System falling due this month.

MWSS has reportedly shelved a $190-million, five-year loan with Bridge Banc in favor of a short-term loan refinancing from Deutsche Bank.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board, during its meeting on Thursday, also gave its final go-ahead to the flotation of $175-million worth of 18-month zero coupon bonds by the national government.

The government will issue the zeroes on Monday and receive net proceeds of $167.5 million from the bond float on the same day.

In July, MWSS had chosen the Bridge Banc offer among several proposals of several investment banks. But the finance department overruled the choice of MWSS given Bridge Banc's limited track record.

Government sources were puzzled why the MWSS chose Bridge Banc over groups like the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, ABN Amro, JP Morgan Chase and Keppel Investment.

Bridge Banc is not among the regulated entities by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. of the United States, according to INQUIRER sources. MWSS claimed that Bridge Banc was chosen to handle the loan over other investment banks because it offered the most attractive rate.

MWSS has a maturing $100-million, one-year loan with Deutsche Bank. The state-run water company wanted to borrow a bigger amount to pay part of the P6 billion in maturing debts that should have been absorbed by the Lopez-controlled Maynilad Water Services Inc.

The P6-billion obligation would fall due between now and the first quarter of 2004.

Due to an ongoing arbitration case between MWSS and Maynilad, the state entity will have to shoulder the liabilities while the issue is not settled.

Maynilad, a joint venture of the Lopez group and French firm Ondeo, had stopped paying concessions fees and has filed for an early termination of its concession agreement with the MWSS.

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

Read more. Win more!
GO TO PAGE A3

'Exorcist' prequel opens doors in Hollywood for Billy Crawford

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Sid Demallo: "Whatever happened to the prequel of 'The Exorcist' that our very own Billy Crawford was supposed to star in? I read that its production hit a snag when director John Frankenheimer passed away."

Yes, Frankenheimer's demise was a major setback. But Warner Brothers, producer of "Exorcist: The Beginning," the prequel to the hugely popular 1973 horror classic that made Linda Blair a household name, got a big boost when the William Friedkin original was re-released three years ago and earned a whopping $40 million at the box office!

Solid reputation

So, they hastily hired Paul Schrader ("Auto Focus," "Cat People," "Affliction"), who has built a solid reputation as the scriptwriter of "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," to take over.

The production suffered another setback when Liam Neeson, who was slated to portray Fr. Lankester Merrin (Max Von Sydow's character in the original), and Ryan Phillippe (as Fr. Francis) dropped out. Schrader found his replacements in Stellan Skarsgard (who is rumored to play Dr. Octopus in the "Spider-Man" sequel), and Gabriel Mann ("The Recruit").

CRAWFORD shot some scenes of his first international starrer in Africa.

Snags

After a number of snags, the production finally started shooting in Morocco in November last year, and wrapped up in Italy on Feb. 28. Billy Crawford plays Che Che, the teenage boy who gets possessed by the demon Pazuzu, the same evil spirit that possessed Regan MacNeil (Blair) in the first "Exorcist."

Events that transpire in the prequel originate from a specific scene related to Friedkin's movie.

In an interview with "Cinescape," producer Wayne Morris explains, "In the original, when two senior priests discuss who should do the exorcism, they single out Fr. Merrin because of his alleged experience 14 years earlier, when he performed an exorcism in Africa."

"It's a loss-of-faith story," says

'EXORCIST'/C2

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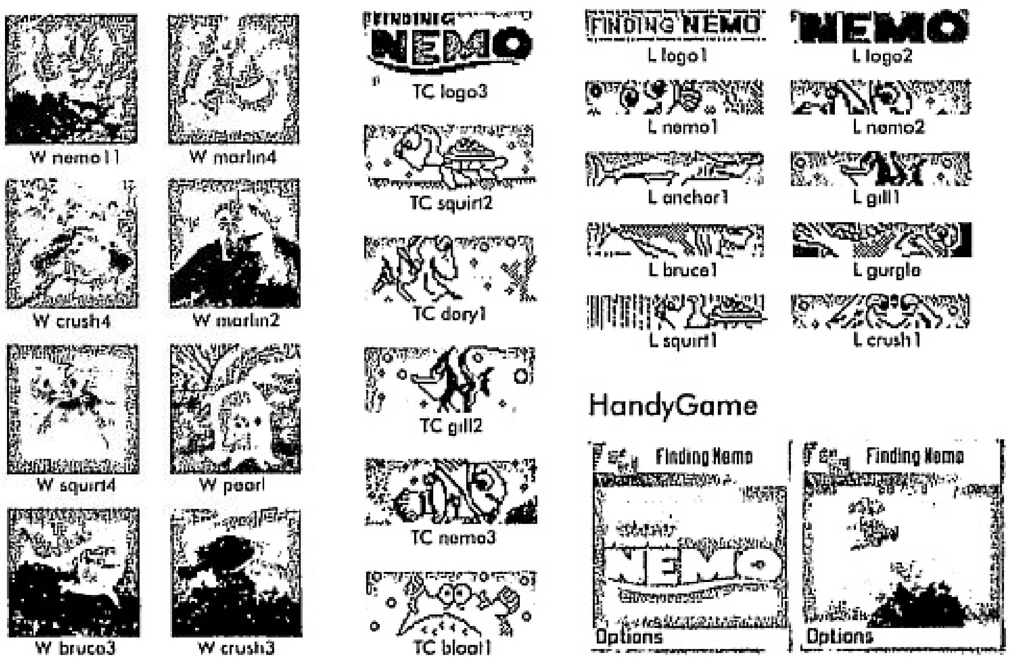

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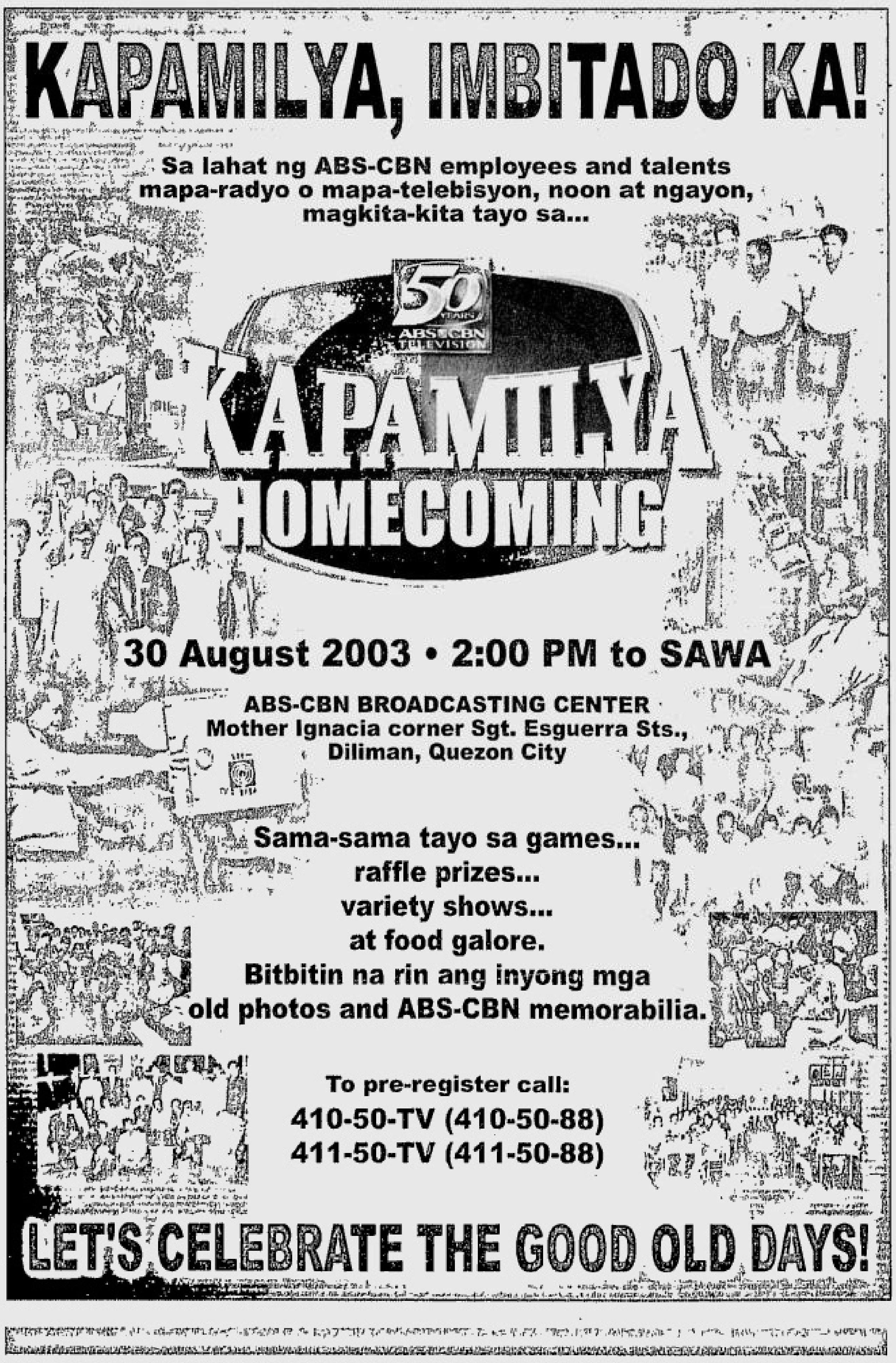
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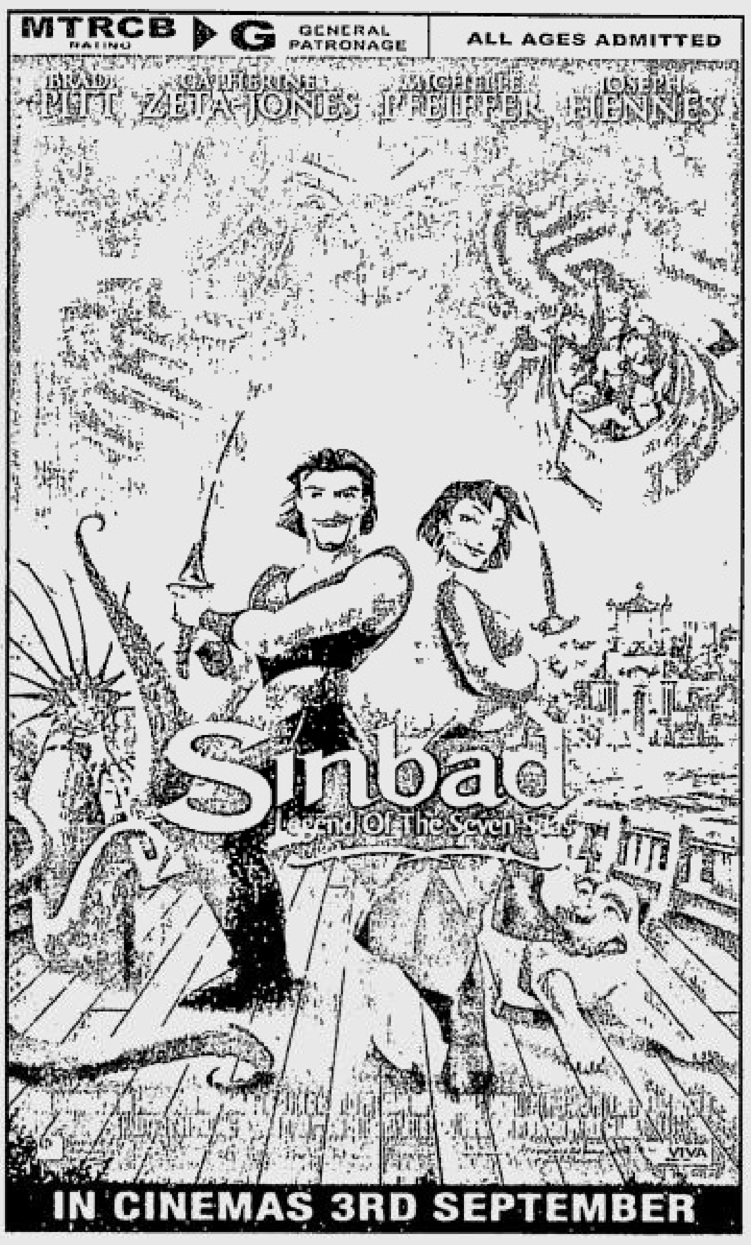
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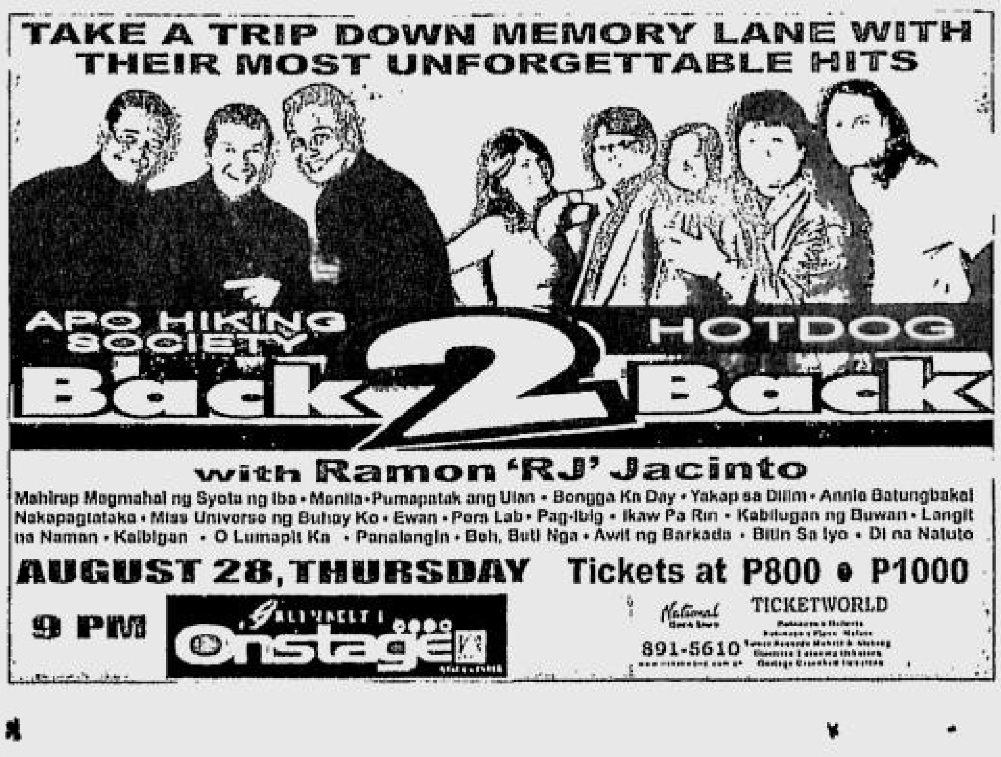
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'Exorcist'

From page C1

Schrader, "and how Merrin comes back to a buried church to get his faith back. It's like 'Shane' with a crucifix."

Stellan Skarsgard promises a scarier movie. He explains, "The first film takes place at an American suburb where one person gets possessed. The prequel happens in a very exotic setting (Kenya), and not only one person gets possessed—a whole valley does!"

Mann adds, "Its script is very eerie, very scary. It constantly builds on a growing dread."

Updates

It is what these promising statements can do to the movie and to the budding Hollywood career of Crawford that draws us to these updates. The young Filipino actor deserves a break.

After winning the "Best International Male Artist" award over Eminem, Will Smith and Robbie Williams at the NRJ Music Awards last January in Cannes, France, Billy continues his winning streak in the European market.

Shocked

He says, "I was totally shocked! Robbie had just finished performing and he wasn't very happy. But I was just there to perform, and was thrilled enough to be there because it was my first major awards show in Europe."

"Ride," Crawford's second album, latches onto this tide of accomplishments, as he extensively promotes it in the United Kingdom this month, with stopovers in places like Bristol, Kent, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

Let's pray his musical success can help him cross over to films successfully when "Exorcist: The Beginning" opens in theaters on Feb. 6, 2004.

50 best Filipino films (1953-2002) named

MANUEL Conde in "Juan Tamad Goes to Congress."

By Nestor U. Torre

A SURVEY group has asked us to come up with our list of the 50 best Filipino films from 1953 to 2002. This is a daunting task, and is also prone to subjectivity.

Strong impact

Perhaps the best approach is just to sequentially recall the movies that had a particularly strong impact on us when we saw them, or were especially entertaining and well-made, or significant in other aspects.

And so, to start at the very beginning, reminisce and express our appreciation for the films that have kept us hopeful about Filipino movies, despite current evidence to the contrary:

The first Filipino film that impressed us was "Ibong Adarna," which we saw at a private screening. We still remember the mo-

50 BEST/ C5

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	FINDING NEMO
Ali 6	VIEW FROM THE TOP
Ali 7	ALEX AND EMMA

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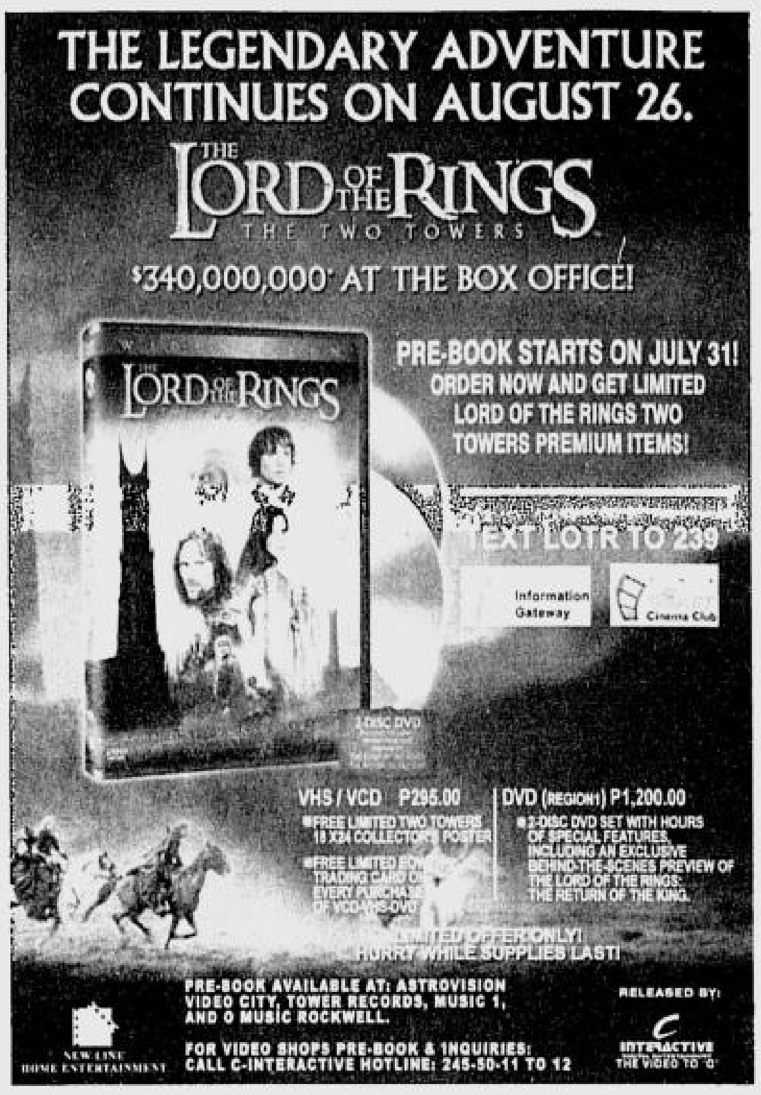

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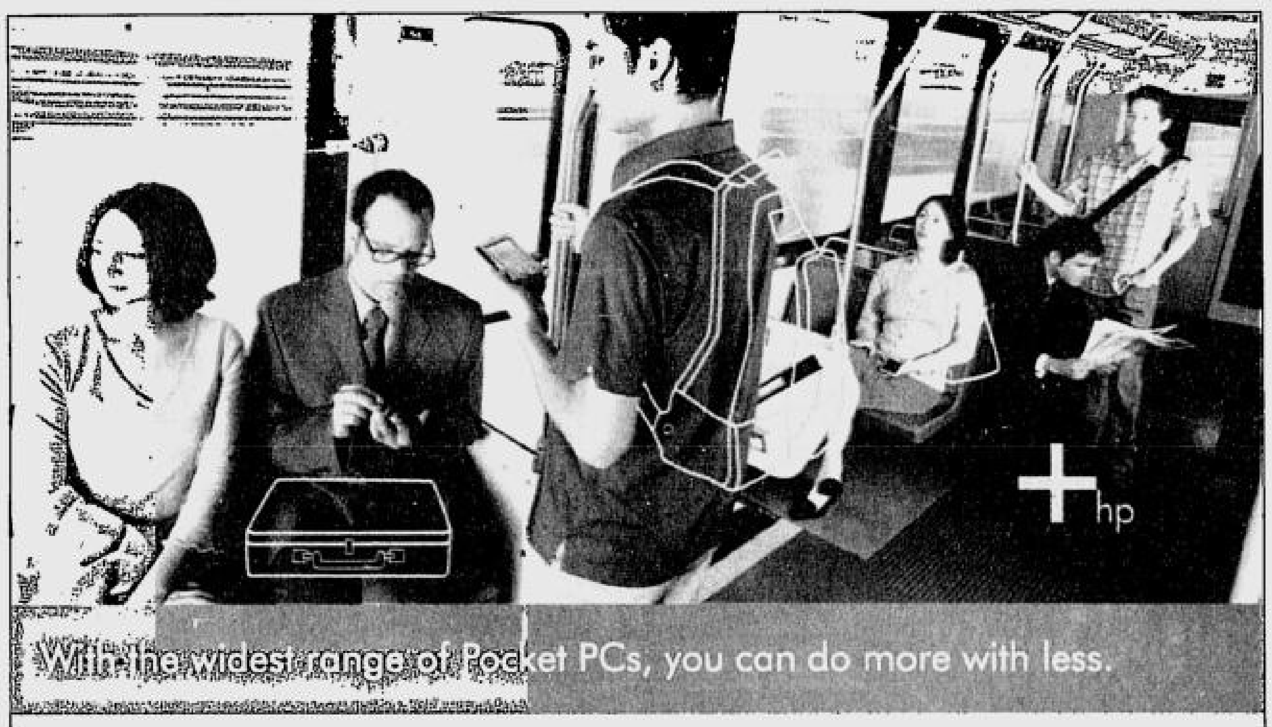

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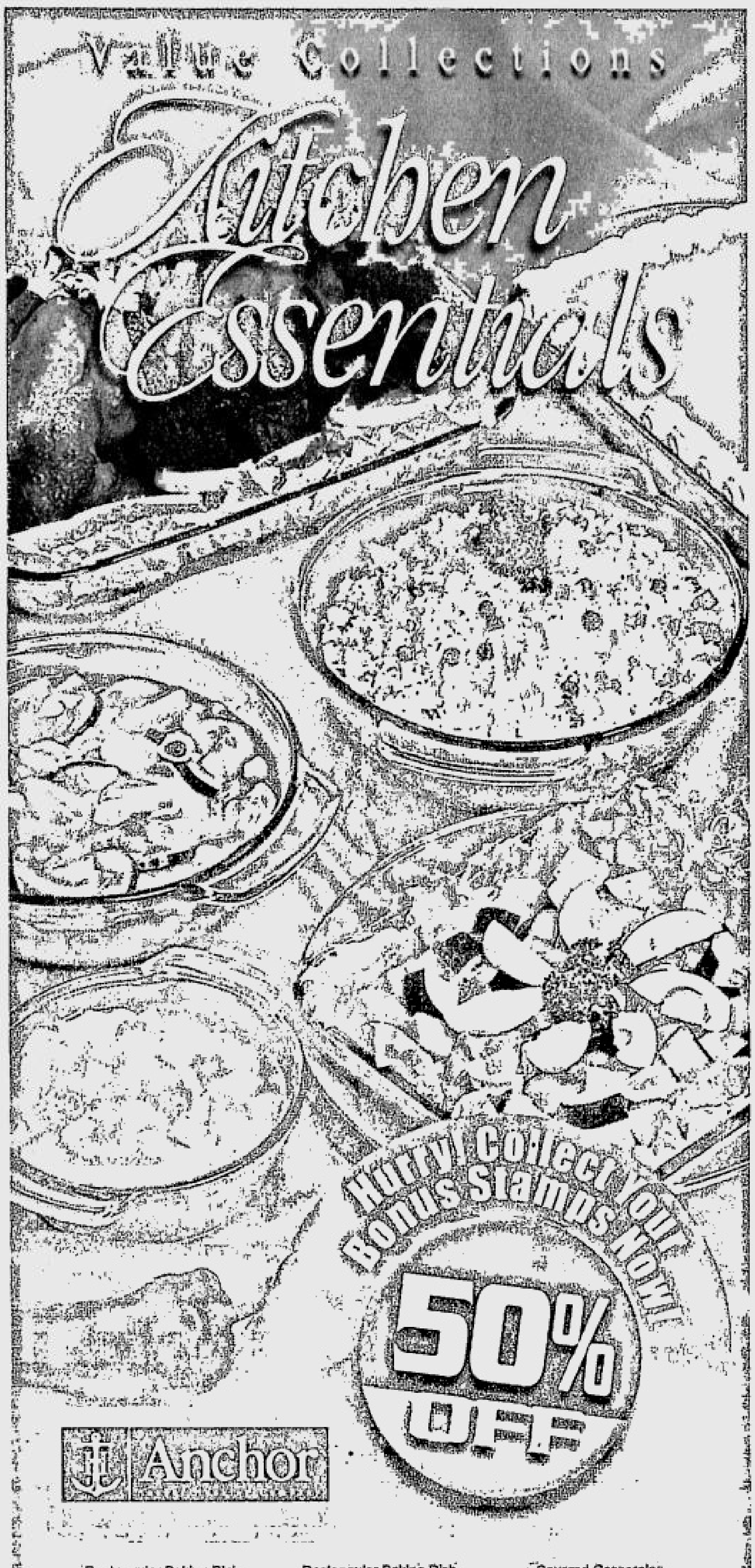

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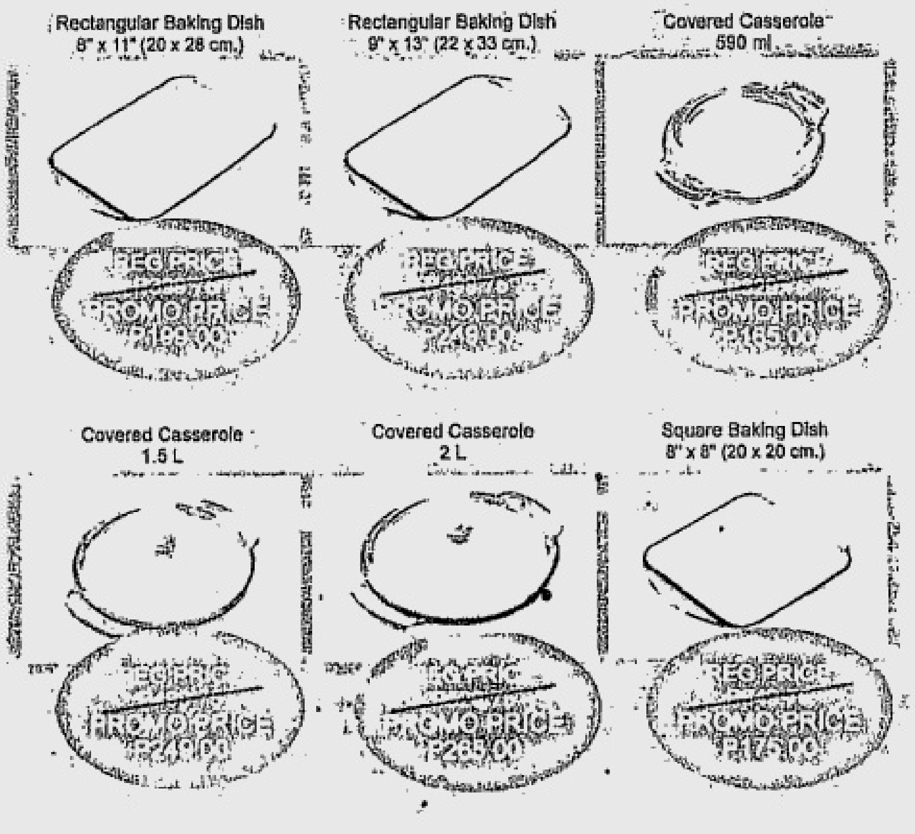

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From page C7

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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C	
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CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	BEHIND GREEN DOOR
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CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	BABASAGIN KRISTAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
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CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	VIEW FROM THE TOP
CINEMA-14	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-15	NOON AT NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
(LAS PINAS)	LXG
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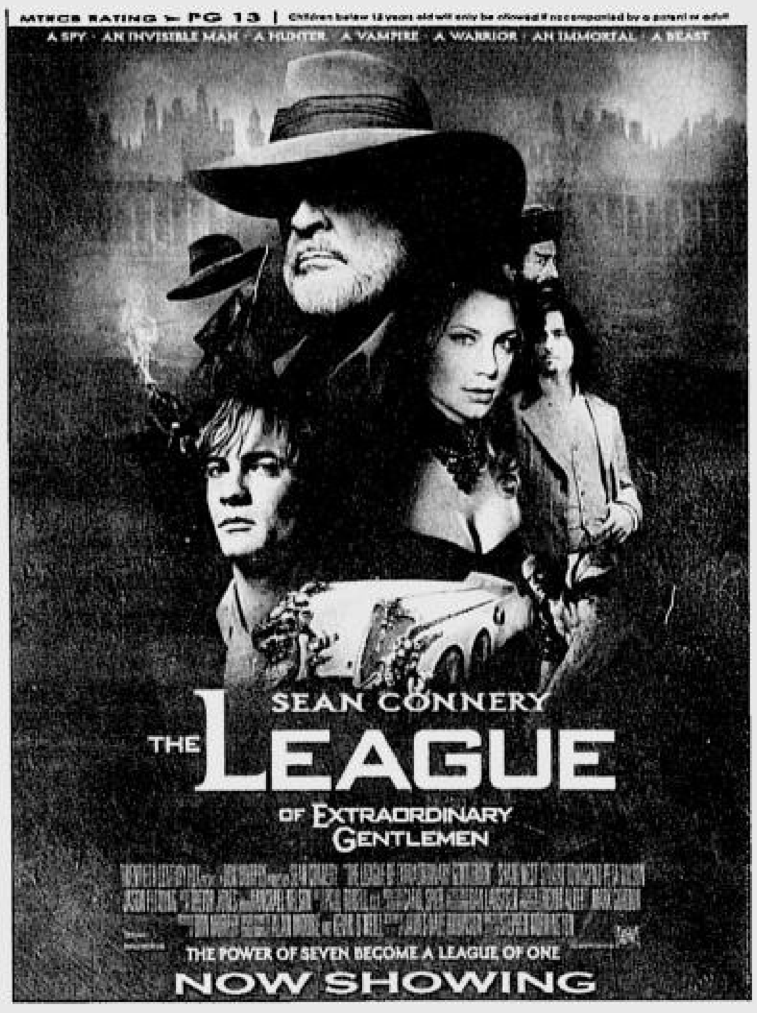
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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A SPY · AN INVISIBLE MAN · A HUNTER · A VAMPIRE · A WARRIOR · AN IMMORTAL · A BEAST
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CINEMA 1	**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN** 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40 P13
CINEMA 2	**THE ITALIAN JOB** 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10, **R13**

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AUG 22 23 29 30, 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
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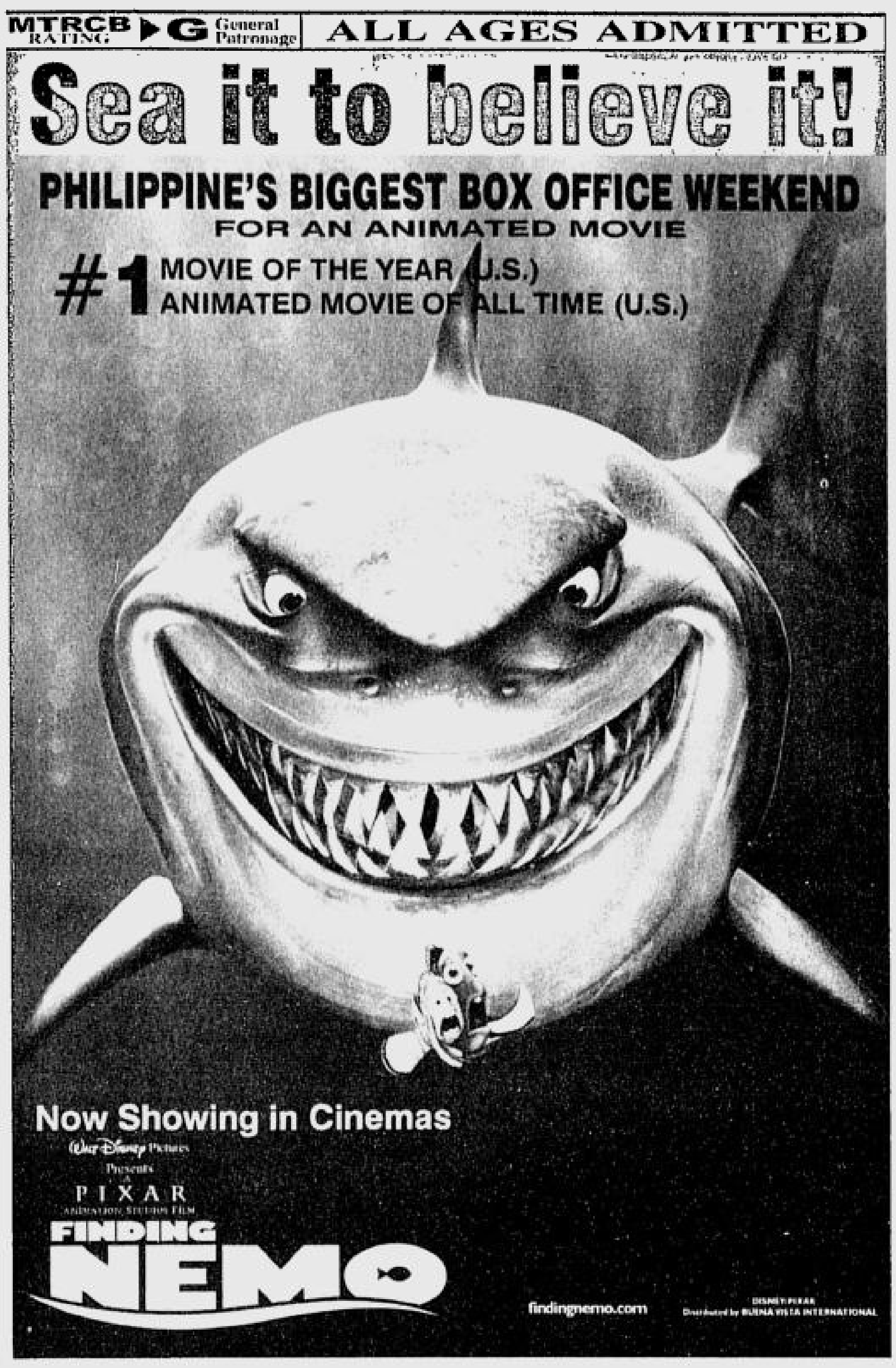
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

A VIEW FROM THE TOP **PG13** 11:50,1:50, 3:50, 5:50,7:50, 9:50	**FINDING NEMO** **GP** 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:30	**ALEX & EMMA** **PG13** 1:20,3:30, 5:40,7:50, 10:00
LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN **PG13** 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	**NOON AT NGAYON** **PG13** 1:25,4:10,6:55, 9:40	**ITALIAN JOB** **R13** 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.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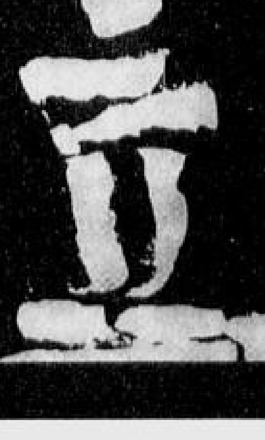

SWIMMING POOL
(R-18)
AUG 25 - GREENELT 3
AUG. 26 - GLORIETTA 4

DOGVILLE
(R-18)
AUG. 25 - GLORIETTA 4
AUG. 26 - GREENBELT 3

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AUG. 25 & 26 - GREENBELT 1 - Cinema 1

LAN YU
(R-18)
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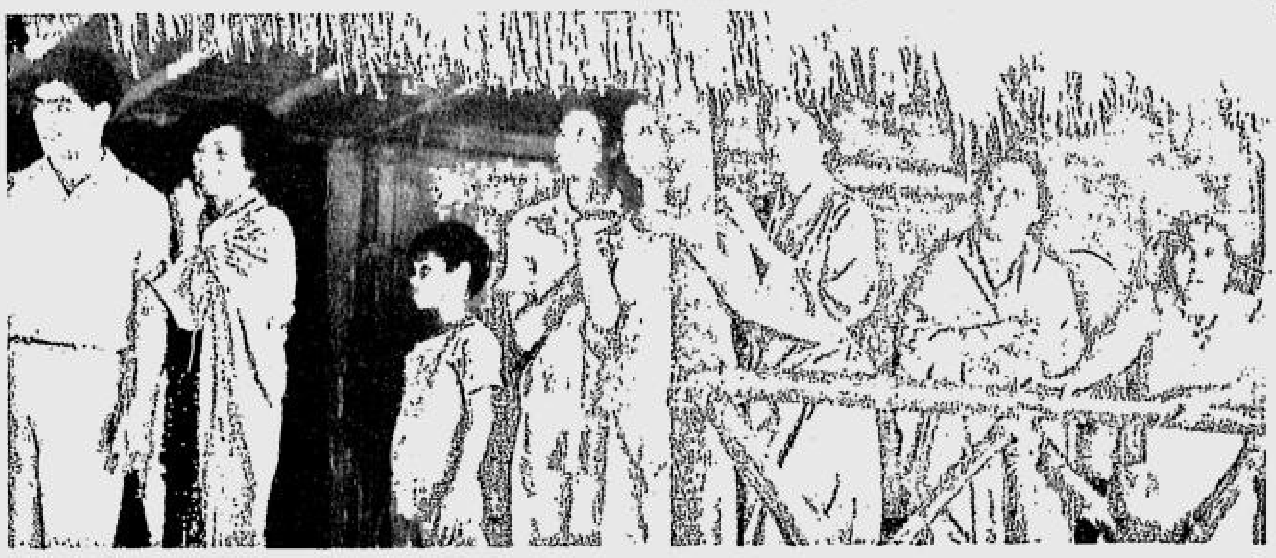


PEQUE Gallaga's "Oro, Plata, Mata."

50 best Filipino films (1953-2002) named

From page C3

ment when the magical bird displayed its beautiful hues—in a sequence that was colored by hand, frame by frame. That was a truly magical moment.

Early films

Other early films that we can still remember clearly and fondly: "Biyaya ng Lupa," "Anak Dalita," "Badjao," Gerry de Leon's "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo," "MN," "Malvarosa." "Juan Tamad Goes to Congress." "Geron Busabos, Ang Batang Quiapo," FPJ's "Tatlong Hari."

"Passionate Strangers," "Sisa," "Kundiman ng Lahi," "Dalagang Ilokana," "The Big Broadcast," "Happy Days Are Here Again" (compilation), "Fe, Esperanza, Caridad."

"Pagdating sa Dulo," "Santiago," "Nunal sa Tubig," "Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo," "Bona," "Kasal," "Kisapmata," "Moral," "Brutal," "Ransom," "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Daigdig," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Aguila," "Tisoy," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon," "Batch '81," "High School Circa '65," "Pito ang Asawa Ko."

"Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," "Himala," "Banta ng Kahapon," "Jose Rizal," "Scorpio Nights," "Bayaning Third World," "Tanging Yaman," "Maynila, sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Sakada," "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Oro, Plata, Mata," "Kamakalawa," "Segurista."

Satires

Other movies that come to mind, but with unremembered or incomplete titles, include a couple of Danny Zialcita's social and sexual satires, and a political drama starring Robert Arevalo and Barbara Perez.

As you can see, the majority of these movies are '50s and '60s productions, and the films cited for the '70s onwards are dominated by productions directed by only a few filmmakers.

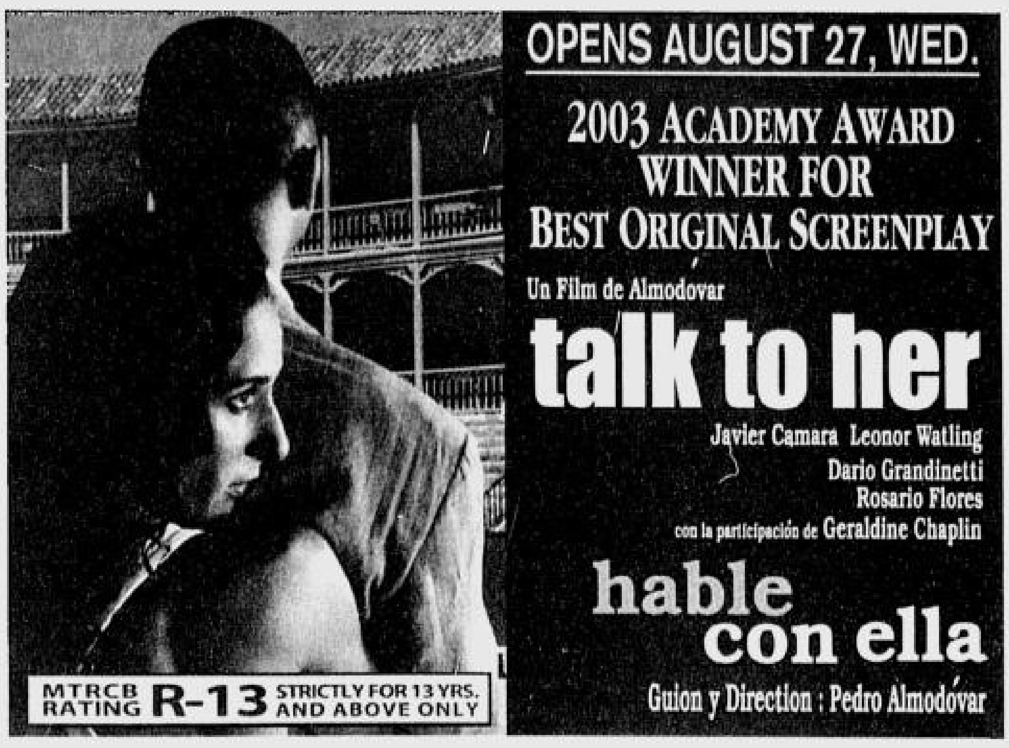
This may look discriminatory and elitist, but we believe that the reason for this "discrimination" is the fact that these few filmmakers were those who dared to buck the overwhelmingly commercial tide of those decades in which they were most active.

We now see that we don't lack for good filmmakers, but only a few of them dare to go against the commercial trend, and that's what makes them and their films *truly* great.

Let's hope that this lesson isn't lost on our filmmakers today, who are too prone to compromise, and thus end up making compromised and thus mediocre movies.

CHRISTOPHER de Leon in "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

CESAR Montano plays the national hero in "Jose Rizal."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talk to her

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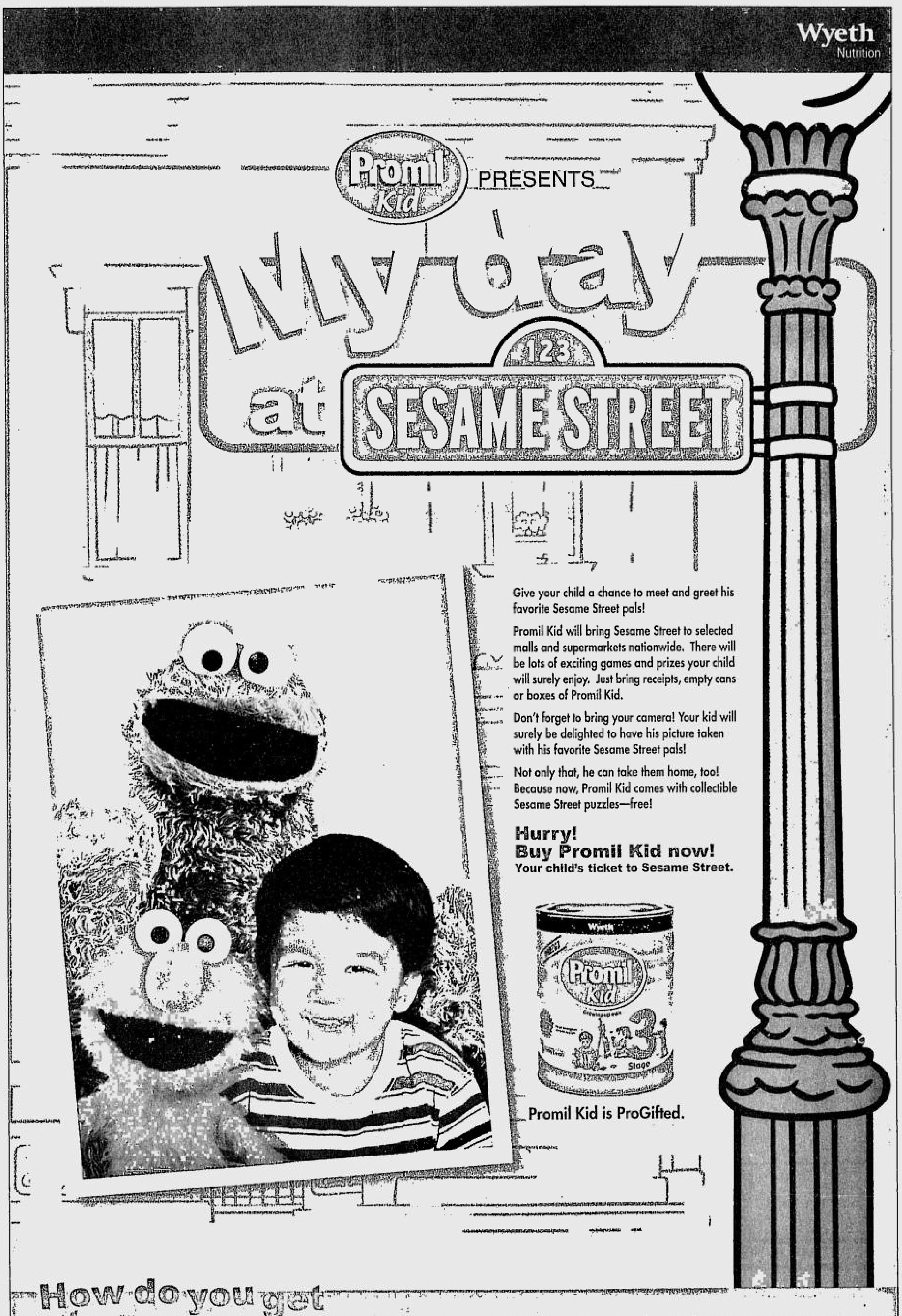
con la participación de Geraldine Chaplin

hable con ella

Guion y Direction : Pedro Almodóvar



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August 17, 2003	Landmark, Makati
August 23, 2003	Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas
August 24, 2003	Rustan's Supermarket, Rockwell
August 31, 2003	SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa

PROVINCIAL:	
July 20, 2003	Metro Ayala, Cebu
July 27, 2003	SM City, Iloilo
July 27, 2003	Robinson's Place, Iloilo
August 2, 2003	SM City, Cebu
August 3, 2003	Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite
August 9, 2003	NCCC, Davao
August 9, 2003	Park & Shop, Davao
August 10, 2003	South Supermarket, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
August 10, 2003	Waltermart, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
August 30, 2003	SM Pampanga

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2 THE ITALIAN JOB	2 THE ITALIAN JOB	2 CINEMANILA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE ITALIAN JOB 12 20, 2 40, 5 00, 7 20, 9 40, 12 00	2 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 LXG	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LXG 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug. 28 - 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ALEX & EMMA 12 40, 2 50, 5 00, 7 10, 9 20, 11 30	3 LXG
4 KEKA	4 NOON AT NGAYON		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 VIEW FROM THE TOP 1 00, 2 50, 4 40, 6 30, 8 20, 10 10, 12 00	4 ALEX & EMMA
	5 BAD BOYS II		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 FINDING NEMO 12 35, 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	5 FINDING NEMO
	6 VIEW FROM THE TOP			
	7 ALEX & EMMA			

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4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	ALEX & EMMA
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9	NOON AT NGAYON
10	BAD BOYS - 2

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6	ITALIAN JOB

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Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	

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1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

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2	PROSTI
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	NENA INOCCENTE
4	RESERVE
5	ALEX & EMMA
6	KEKA
7	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 (SDDS)	ITALIAN JOB
9 (DOLBY)	A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Gotesco Caloocan

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2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KEKA
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3	NENA INOCCENTE
4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5	VISIBLE SECRET
6 (DOLBY)	ITALIAN JOB
7 (DTS)	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
8	MOTEL
9	BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Commonwealth

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1	NENA INOCCENTE
2 (SDDS)	ITALIAN JOB
3 (DTS)	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5	KEKA

Gotesco Ortigas

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1	KEKA
2	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 (DTS)	ITALIAN JOB
4	NENA INOCCENTE
5	ALEX & EMMA

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1	NENA INOCCENTE

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3	NENA INOCCENTE
4	ALEX & EMMA

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2	NENA INOCCENTE
3	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
4	KEKA
5	VISIBLE SECRET

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2	RESERVE

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2	NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
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5 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
6	VIEW FROM THE TOP
7	ALEX & EMMA

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2	RESERVE

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall

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1	KEKA
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DTS)	ITALIAN JOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY)	ITALIAN JOB
4	KEKA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

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1	NOON AT NGAYON
2 (DOLBY)	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 (DTS)	ITALIAN JOB
4	KEKA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

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2	NOON AT NGAYON
3	
4	

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1	NOON AT NGAYON
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	BAD BOYS-2
4	LEAGUE EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Magic Star Cinema

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1	BAD BOYS-2
2	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3	NOON AT NGAYON

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1	
2	NENA INOCENTE
3	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
4	

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2	KEKA
3	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	
5	SNAKE LADY

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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3	A VIEW FROM THE TOP

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4	BAD BOYS-2

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4	FINDING NEMO

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7	KEKA
8	DARK WATER

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2	VIEW FROM THE TOP
3	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	KEKA
5	FINDING NEMO
6	NENA INOSENTE
7	BAD BOYS 2
8	ALEX & EMMA
9	ITALIAN JOB
10	VISIBLE SECRET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

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1	ALEX & EMMA
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	VISIBLE SECRET
4	ITALIAN JOB
5	NOON AT NGAYON
6	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7	FINDING NEMO
8	KEKA
9	BAD BOYS 2
10	NENA INOSENTE
11	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
12	VIEW FROM THE TOP

SM CITY MANILA

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1	ITALIAN JOB
2	FINDING NEMO
3	ALEX & EMMA
4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7	VIEW FROM THE TOP
8	NENA INOSENTE
9	NOON AT NGAYON
10	VISIBLE SECRET
11	BULLETPROOF MONK
12	KEKA

SM MEGAMALL

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	FINDING NEMO
4	ITALIAN JOB
5	VIEW FROM THE TOP
6	ALEX & EMMA
7	KEKA
8	VISIBLE SECRET
9	NOON AT NGAYON
10	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
11	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
12	NENA INOSENTE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

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2	FINDING NEMO
3	KEKA
4	NOON AT NGAYON
5	ALEX & EMMA
6	VIEW FROM THE TOP
7	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8	ITALIAN JOB

SM SOUTHMALL

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2	VISIBLE SECRET
3	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	FINDING NEMO
5	ALEX & EMMA
6	NENA INOSENTE
7	NOON AT NGAYON
8	ITALIAN JOB
9	BAD BOYS 2
10	KEKA

SM CITY CEBU

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	LEGACY WEEKEND
3	FINDING NEMO
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	VIEW FROM THE TOP
6	MOTEL
7	NOON AT NGAYON
8	ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY ILOILO

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3	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	FINDING NEMO
5	NOON AT NGAYON
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	RESERVED
8	WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	VIEW FROM THE TOP
3	FINDING NEMO
4	MOTEL
5	NAKED WEAPON
6	NOON AT NGAYON

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1	KEKA
2	ITALIAN JOB
3	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	NOON AT NGAYON

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3	KEKA
4	NENA INOSENTE

SM CITY DAVAO

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1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	REAL CANCUN
3	DARK WATER
4	NOON AT NGAYON
5	VIEW FROM THE TOP
6	FINDING NEMO

SM BICUTAN

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1	ITALIAN JOB
2	KEKA
3	NOON AT NGAYON
4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

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1	BULLETPROOF MONK
2	NOON AT NGAYON
3	FINDING NEMO
4	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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3 ALEX AND EMMA - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 KEKA - 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP - 10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
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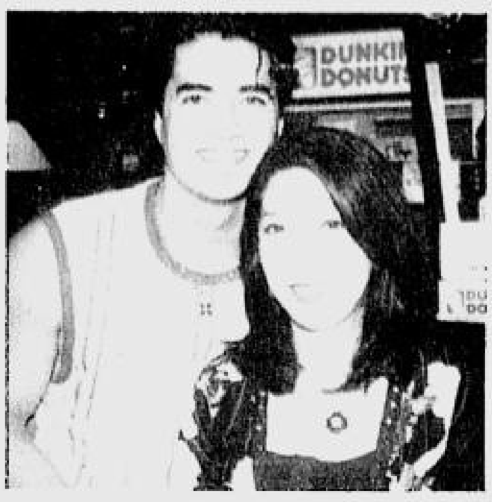


DOLLY Ann Carvajal (right) on "CelebrityDATcom," with Troy Montero.

CHIQUI Roa-Puno hosts "Travel" on IBC-13.

In search of alternative programming on TV

By Bibsy M. Carballo

TELEVISION surfers seeking alternative programming outside the usual fare of *telenovelas*, variety and show biz talk shows have three options: One, watch cable shows; two, look outside the reigning channels, 2 and 7; and three, stop watching TV altogether.

Cable

Shows on cable are great, but we also want to know what goes on in our own country. ABS and GMA simply don't have available airtime, and have fallen victims to the ratings game. And now that ANC, ABS-CBN's Studio 21, home of many intelligent shows, has axed its non-news shows, we have to look elsewhere.

Surprise of all surprises! There is a lot of alternative programming that can be seen on RPN-9 and IBC-13, which they themselves produce, and ABC-5 makes its airtime available to co-producers.

RPN has "Dee's Day" with Deedee Siytangco, Thursdays, 12:30 -1:30 p.m.; "The Imelda Papin Show" Saturdays, 11 a.m.; "Lifestyle with Claire de la Fuente," Saturdays, 4 p.m.; "Beauty Plus with Ricky Reyes," Sundays, 11 a.m.; "A Second Look" with Anthony Pangilinan, Fridays, 12:30 p.m.; and "OPTV," Mondays, 11 p.m.

'Good Take'

IBC has "Travel" with Chiqui Roa-Puno, Tuesdays, 10 p.m.; " A Taste of Life" with Heny Sison, Sundays, 11 a.m.; "Kidcetera" with Lotlot de Leon, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; "Good Take," Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; "Entrepinoy Start Up," Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.; "Entrepinoy Prime Time," Fridays, 10 p.m.; "CelebrityDATcom," Thursdays, 9:30 p.m., among others.

ABC has four shows co-produced with Ideal Minds. It airs the children's animated series, "Tutubi Patrol," Saturdays, 6-6:30 p.m., co-produced with Gecko Productions.

Of course, the problem is budget. Producers of these shows have to be innovative and creative enough to make do with formats that are basically taped in the studio with some footage taken outdoors to break the monotony.

Chiqui Roa's 30-minute "Travel" show takes great pains to make each show interesting.

Now on its third year, the show has been awarded the Golden Dove for Best Program Promoting Culture and the Arts for 2002. Chiqui says her favorite episodes were the ones shot in Hong Kong and Bohol.

Alliance

Similarly, "OPTV" addresses concerns of Filipinos overseas. The show has an alliance with ABS-CBN's TFC (The Filipino Channel), and is thus seen in North America, Australia, and Asia Saturdays, 9 a.m., and in the Middle East Sundays, 11 p.m.

Hosted by Kata Inocencio, Richard Merk, Inah Borra and Tonette Quiogue, the show we watched had enough advertisers to keep it afloat.

Over at ABC-5, Ideal Minds, headed by Chris Tan, produces four shows that demonstrates great creativity within miniscule budgets: "On Air," Mondays, 9 p.m.; "Single," Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; "Campus TV," Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.; and their banner show, "The Misadventures of Ariel and Maverick," Mondays, 9:30 p.m. Some of these shows cost barely P50,000 per episode. "No one can produce shows as cheaply as we," proudly states Chris.

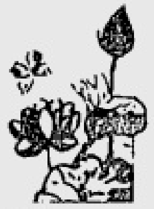
Best of all, their shows make people think, and connect with their audiences.

After two years of sacrifice, their efforts are paying off. Ariel and Maverick are close to becoming household names.

Email the author at bibsymcar@yahoo.com

God is ever-youthful

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHO wants to look 80 years old? Do we see young people rushing to the plastic surgeon to look old? Do people pay money have their hair dyed white or to have wrinkles added to their faces? No way. No one wants to look old.

Idea

Yet, oddly enough, we entertain the idea that God, the All-Attractive Being, has an unattractive appearance. Some people paint the Supreme Person with features we don't want for ourselves, and we have accepted that old look as being God's form.

We are repulsed by the "old" look and yet, we have projected it on God.

People also add a background of plain clouds to His gloomy image. Around him are denizens in long, white robes playing harps. And what does God do? He sits on a throne, assessing lives—an old judge passing sentence on people.

Is it any wonder why young and active people are not attracted to the Supreme Person? They are turned off by the old look, the lifeless and fearsome image of God as an elderly judge. They are attracted by young, beautiful movie idols, strong athletes and adventurers who engage in exciting activities. They hang posters of their idols on walls and read up on their exciting exploits. God is not an attractive focus of their devotion. Oh yes, they pray to Him when they need help, but they don't seek his company.

Enchanting

But, the Supreme Person is the most attractive of all. He is ever-youthful. In the Bible, King Solomon praises His beauty and glorious nature. In the Vedic scriptures, His beautiful form is described as enchanting.

He has black, curly hair that frames His most beautiful face. His eyes are black and His lips are deep red. His teeth are like moons and His skin is as soft as rose petals. His chest and shoulders are broad and His arms are long.

Although beautiful and delicate in form, He has a strength that can pick up a huge boulder as if He were simply plucking a mushroom.

When He smiles, hearts melt in loving sur-

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Bayani Fernando is my hero

(Conclusion)

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE WAY chairman Fernando thinks is so logical, it's hard to imagine that people won't vote for him. And that includes the youth. More than the older generation, it is the young who are impatient for reforms.

And if you think he is politically naïve, think again. The chairman has a formula for success. I believe he has a good chance to make it, even if he runs as an independent.

Many of us are tired of tradpols, traditional politicians who think only of themselves. Here we have a hardworking, honest-to-goodness candidate who only wants the best for the country.

It is time we think seriously about our country and stop jokers, gunrunners, tax evaders, drug dealers and the generally corrupt from being elected to public office. Bayani is my hero. He can be yours as well.

Colposcopy unit for cervical cancer

The Asian Hospital and Medical Center recently inaugurated its Colposcopy unit as part of its commitment to render total women's wellness services.

This, in the hope of preventing and reducing gynecologic cancer through timely treatment. Cervical cancer is considered the second most common cancer globally among women.

A simple presentation was emceed by Dr. Rebecca B. Singson. Dr. Cecilia Llave, chief, Oncology section of the department and assistant chief Dr. Aina Sales-Diaz delivered well-applauded remarks. The presence of Dr. Rodrigo Floro, director of Medical Affairs at the hospital, underscored the importance of the occasion.

CHAIRMAN Fernando with his wife, Marides, mayor of Marikina City.

For more information, call Genesis Center, Asian Hospital at 771-9000 to 02, 771-9204 or 771-9206.

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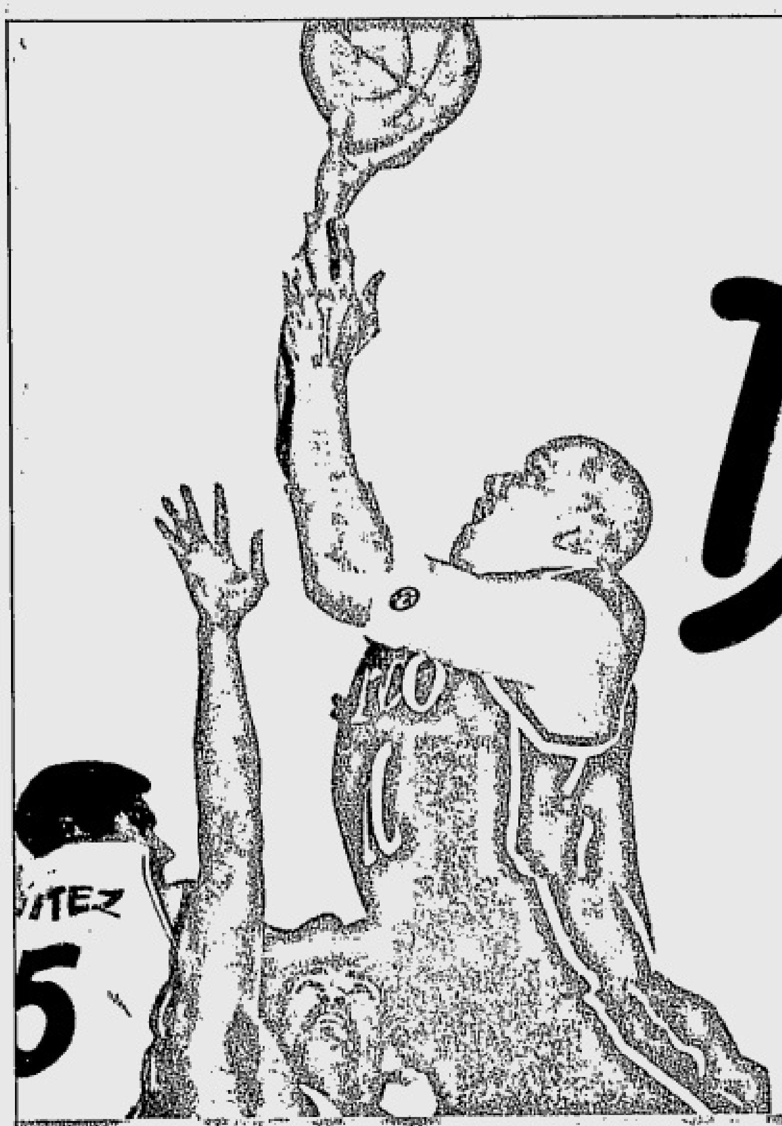

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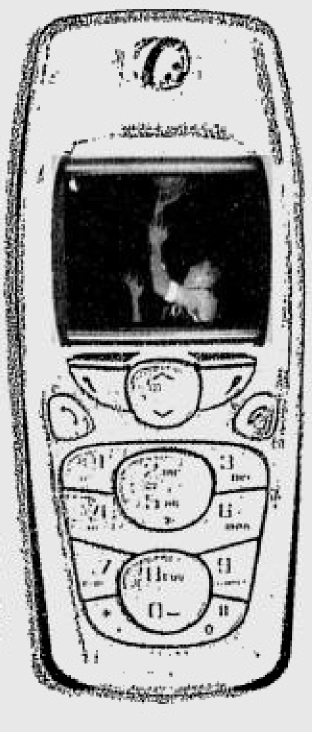

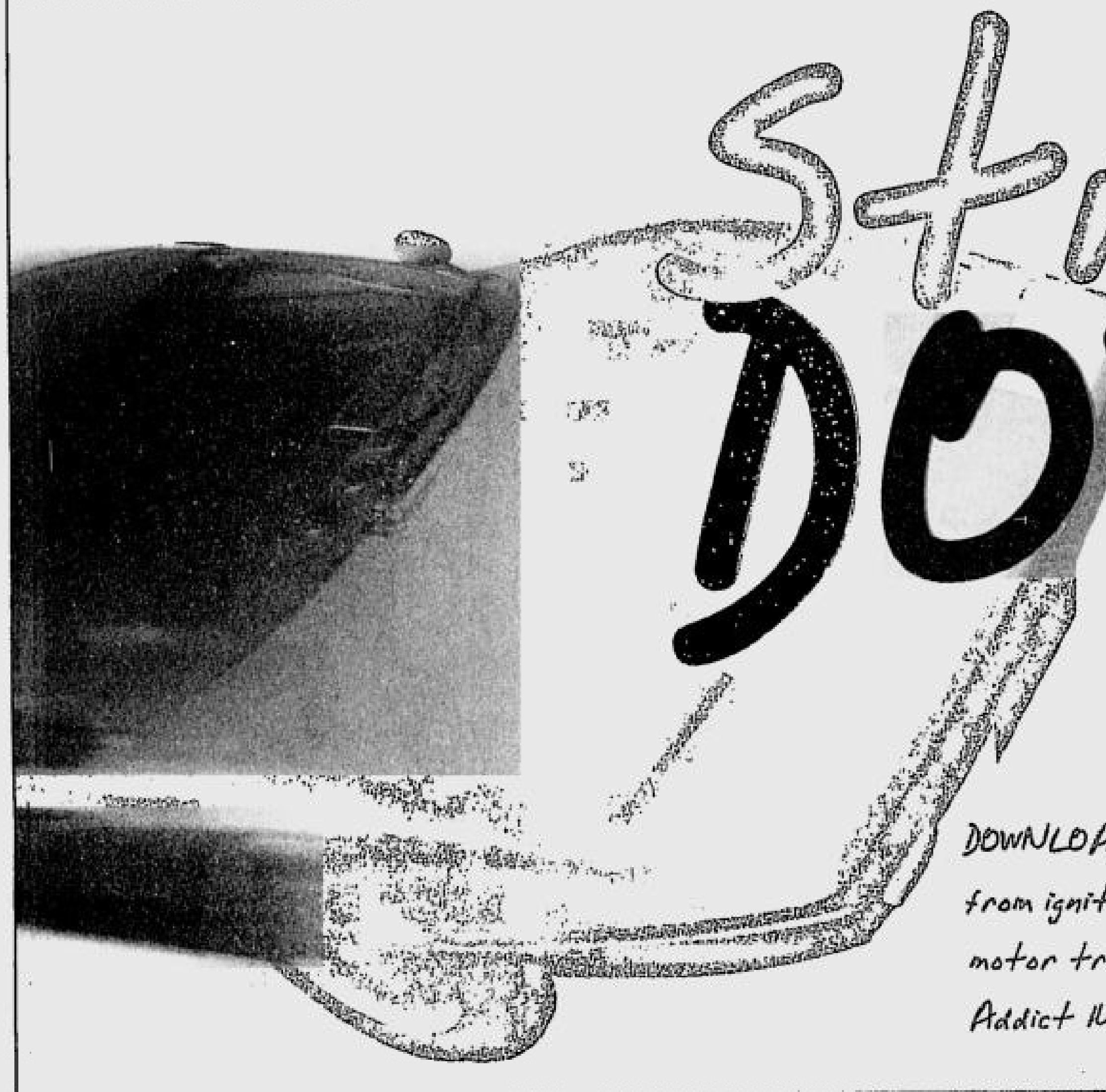

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Twin tributes to Tita King

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON Aug. 25 and 30, National Artist for Music Lucrecia Kasilag will be honored with two separate tributes—an indication of how well-loved Tita King is after all these years.

The Aug. 25 event, "Salute to King," will be held at the CCP Main Theater, and is being presented by the CCP, NCCA, LRK Cultural Foundation, and the NAMCYA Foundation.

85th birthday

Aside from honoring Tita King on her 85th birthday, the presentation will mark the 30th year of NAMCYA and launch the nationwide music talent search's scholarship program. Set to perform are the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Ballet Philippines, NAMCYA talents, Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, PWU Music Ensemble and Cecil Licad.

On Aug. 30, the PWU College of Music, MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank present a Kasilag Piano Festival showcasing Tita King's complete solo piano music at the Francisco Santiago Hall on Makati ave.

Pieces include "Fantasy on A Muslim Theme," "Elegy," "Variations on a Bicol Folk Theme," "Alitaptap," "April Morning," "Sonata Orientale" and "Valse Lamentosa." Call 525-0070.

We join in these twin tributes to Tita King because we have admired her, both as artist and person, ever since we started acting at the CCP for Rolando Tiñio's Teatro Pilipino.

More recently, we directed a Bayanihan production, for which Tita King composed the music, and we thoroughly enjoyed working with her.

She was already in her early 80s and conducted rehearsals with us from her wheelchair, but she was as dynamic and creative as ever, and kept pushing her singers and musicians to come up with their best performances. We loved her for that!

Movies on TV

On HBO: Saturday, Aug. 23 at 12 noon, "Finding Forrester." 4 p.m., "Black Beauty." 11:40 p.m., "Training Day." Aug. 24 at 4 p.m., "Apollo 13." 8 p.m., "The Tailor of Panama." Aug. 25 at 4:45 p.m., "Love and Basketball." 11 p.m., "Black Hawk Down."

Aug. 26 at 6:30 a.m., "Lost in Yonkers." 11:30 a.m., "Forrest Gump." 11 p.m., "In the Line of Fire." Aug. 27 at 7:15 p.m., "King Solomon's Mines." Aug. 28 at 10 a.m., "A Kiss Before Dying." 10:30 p.m., "Cast Away." 2:30 a.m., "Children of A Lesser God." Aug. 29 at 2:30 p.m., "Come Together."

On Cinemax: Aug. 23 at 10 a.m., "The Sting." 12:05 a.m., "Final Destination." 1:45 a.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Aug. 24 1:35 a.m., "To Catch a Thief." Aug. 25 at 4:15 p.m., "When Worlds Collide." Aug. 26 at 8:15 a.m., "The Graduate." 5:45 p.m., "The Bridges at Toko-Ri." 9 p.m., "The Godfather, Part 2." Aug. 27 at 10 a.m., "Rear Window." Aug. 28 at 6 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." Aug. 29 at 11:25 a.m., "Dial M for Murder."

Feedback

From the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography: "We would like to urge Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad and the management of Folk Arts Theater to exercise caution in granting a permit to the Showgirl Dance Showdown on Aug. 30. Some sexy stage presentations in the recent past have exceeded the norms of decency.

"Government institutions must exercise leadership by example. The government must protect the people from moral decay."

onstage 2nyt

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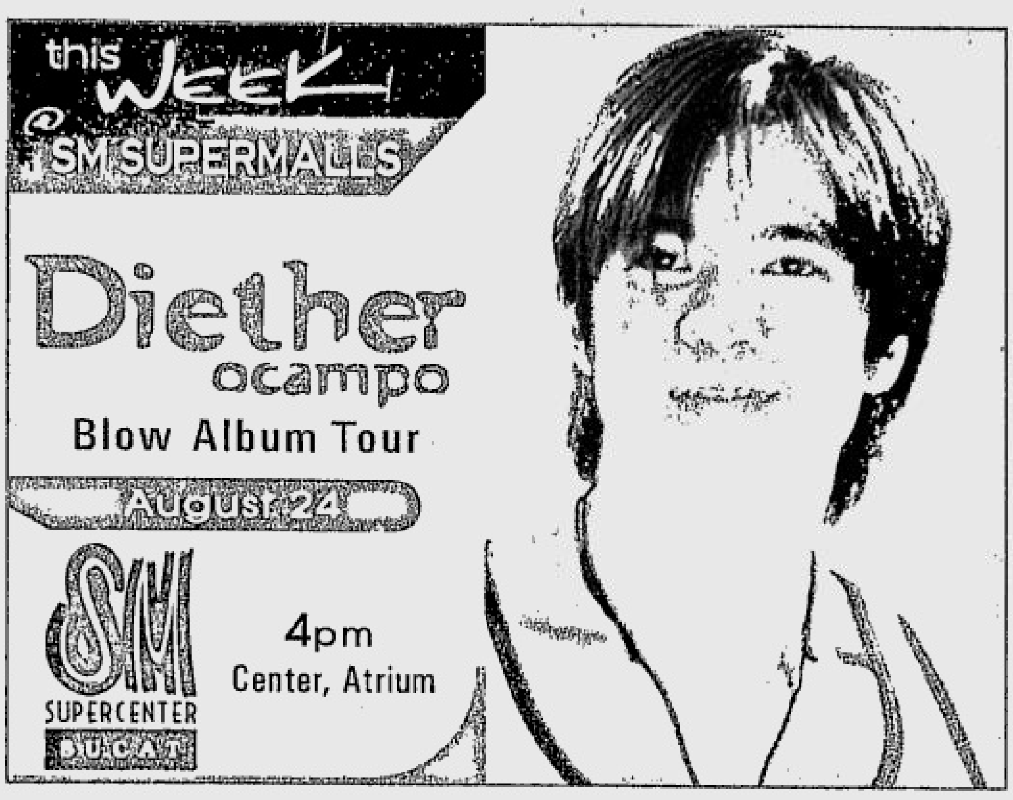

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"RILES." Descent into the pits of poverty.

Making a home along the riles

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

THE UGLY site of crowded shanties along the railroad tracks is so familiar to us urban dwellers that we have learned to ignore it or, perhaps, just accept it as a fact of urban blight that one cannot change.

Collaborator

Ditsi Carolino and her collaborator Nana Buxani are not going to make it easy for us to continue being apathetic. In their new documentary, "Riles" or "Life on the Tracks," Carolino shows us a life that is struggling to be free from poverty.

Eddie and Pen Renomeron are husband and wife who try to live each day with their family of five children. Eddie is a *balut* vendor; Pen, a laundrywoman. So, what's new?

We have seen the same story in "Celso and Cora" by Australian filmmaker Gary Kildea. "Celso and Cora" focuses on a couple in a Pandacan slum—the same struggling family, living each day one at a time. But that was in the '70s.

"Riles" is not merely a reprise of "Celso and Cora." Eddie and Pen's life is much harder, a testament to the country's descent into .the pits of poverty.

Horrible conditions

Inspite of the horrible conditions, Eddie, the quintessential Pinoy, does not lose his sense of humor—"*Sabi nga ni* Freddie Aguilar, *tawanan mo ang iyong problema,*" he cites a pop idol.

So, when Eddie comes home—a space where the living room floor serves as the dining area that turns into a bed by night—the clown in him manages to say: *"Nandito na'ng pogi . . . galing sa upisina!"* And then, he gives out his *pasalubong*—maybe a can of sardines, a salted egg, and on good days a hamburger.

Eddie used to work as a vendor for Pen's father who had a *balut* business. The vendor took Pen with him, and they started a life that does not look like it's going to end happily ever after.

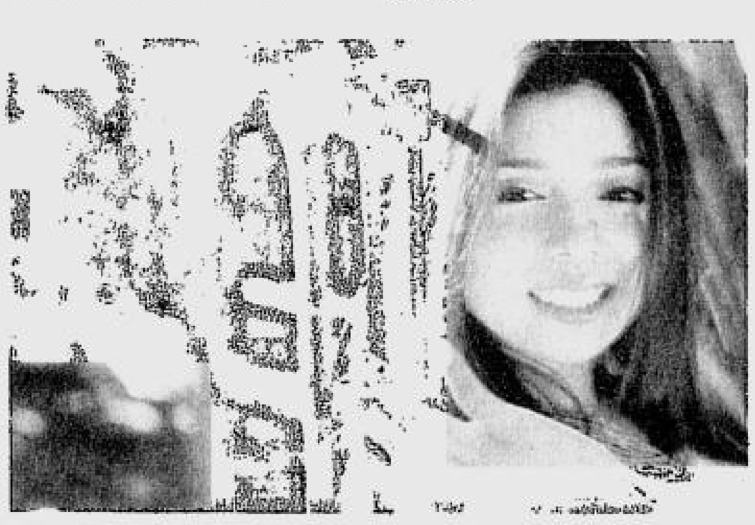
Pen is the strong Pinay, a survivor of breast cancer. She nonchalantly lifts her shirt to show the ugly scars of an absent breast. Not a big deal—but it hurts when it is cold, Pen says matter-of-factly. She continues to run the family, and instills discipline, even upon Eddie.

Alcohol

When she finds out that the man of the house spent some needed money on alcohol, she does not mince words berating her husband and works herself up to hit poor Eddie on the head. The chastised *balut* vendor is shaken, but doesn't counter temper with temper.

In the book of the *machos*, Eddie is a henpecked husband. But Eddie prefers to play the patient one underneath the veneer of a clown. *"Tahimik lang ako,"* he murmurs under his breath, *"pero may* white belt *ako."* He proceeds to execute in slow motion his awkward karate chops.

Of course, Pen is not amused. Then, Eddie murmurs to the "visitors" behind the camera, and to us in effect, *"Kahit pangit 'yan, mahal ko pa rin 'yan." (To be concluded)*



NINA. More passion, please.

Nina needs to interact more with her audience

By Ronald G. Mangubat

WE braved the weekend rains just to catch "Loving you, Nina: An Acoustic Serenade" at the Forum. This is Nina's first live act after she received this year's Aliw award for Best New Female Performer.

Live audience

We wanted to find out how she fared with a live audience. Well, the concert started an hour late. By the time Nina was called onstage, my friend and I were already starting to yawn. Her opening number, Bryan Adam's "Heaven," a moving ballad, was supposed to stir romantic yearnings but Nina couldn't seem to relate to her audience.

This was followed by Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why," Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" and a couple of fast songs. When she sang Phil Collins' "Against All Odds," the audience seemed hesitant to give its thunderous applause.

Nina's voice was perfect but she lacked the sultriness needed to communicate the deeper subtexts of the songs she rendered.

Problem

Another problem was the venue itself. The Forum is a music lounge *cum* restaurant, and performers have to compete with waiters moving around, diners chatting and the clinking sounds of dinnerware.

This was too distracting. For us, food and serious live entertainment don't mix.

It was Nina's special guest, Nyoy Volante, another Aliw awardee for best new male performer, who raised the audience's spirits. He cracked jokes, enjoined everyone to clap their hands, and sang with verve and passion.

The crowd loved him and kept shouting "more" when his act was over.

Then, it was time for duets. Nina and Nyoy's voices blended well, especially when they sang "Separate Lives," from the movie "White Nights."

At this point, Nina seemed to have warmed up. When she belted out her famous hits, "Loving You," "Jealous" and "Foolish Heart," her voice was crisp and cool and, unlike other singers whose belting bravura could virtually smash our eardrums, Nina's vocal pyrotechnics didn't go over the edge.

Most applauded

Her most applauded numbers were Mariah Carey's "Through the Rain" and Teri de Sario's "Fallin'." Her encore number, Chaka Khan's "Through the Fire," was powerful. If she had started the evening at the same energy level, she would have held the crowd in the palms of her hands.

Pilgrimage set for Mother Teresa's beatification rites at Vatican in October

By Nestor U. Torre

WE HAVE admired Mother Teresa and her work for many years, ever since we read a small book about her by the famous British writer and broadcaster, Malcolm Muggeridge.

Moving testament

His moving testament to Mother Teresa's impact on him was made even more dramatic by the fact that he was converted to Catholicism after he spent several weeks with her mission in India, on assignment for the BBC.

After reading Muggeridge's book, we talked to Elvira Manahan about it, and she had a jolly time relating her own, unique encounter with Mother Teresa:

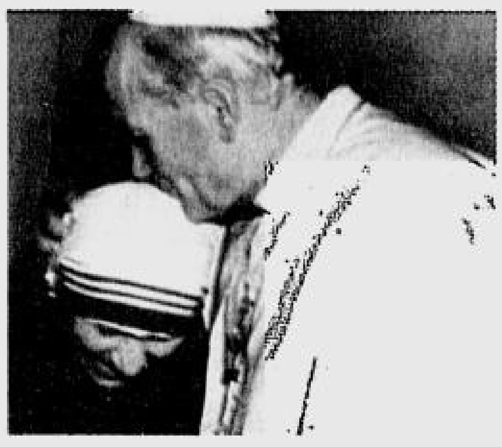
It seems that Mother was in the Philippines to open a center for the poor and sick to be run by her order, the Missionaries of Charity. Elvira admired the nuns' selfless work so much that she wanted to join them—not just to support their efforts, but to give up her family and privileged life, and become a nun herself!

Well, that was Elvira for you, always bent on giving her all to the causes that excited and engaged her. Anyway, Elvira recalled, when she revealed to Mother Teresa the decision she had made, the revered nun looked at her for a long time, taking in her entire "society" aura, without saying a word.

Finally, Mother Teresa replied to Elvira's ardent offer to become a nun serving the poorest of the poor: "Madam, we are all called by God, but in different ways. I think God's wish for you is that you do good exactly where you are right now!"

Elvira took the gentle rebuff well, and proceeded to do exactly as she was told!

These anecdotes come to mind now, because we have been researching material for a musical on Mother Teresa, since she is about to be declared Blessed at solemn rites at the Vatican on Oct. 19.



MOTHER Teresa with her good friend, Pope John Paul II.

ON one of her visits to the Philippines, Mother Teresa met with some teachers.

We would like the musical to be a detailed and personal rendering of Mother's inspiring life, so we have been reading books and talking to people here who have gotten to know the revered nun during her many visits to the Philippines.

As a result of this research, our admiration for Mother Teresa has increased by leaps and bounds. We admired her then; We have come to love her now. We now understand why it took only five years after her death (a record) for Pope John Paul II to declare her Blessed.

Mother Teresa's beatification rites will be witnessed by pilgrims from all over the world at the Vatican this October. Arlina Onglao's Journeys of Faith (tel. nos. 929-0144, 0917-814-8127) is organizing a special pilgrimage group for Filipino devotees for this purpose, to culminate at the Vatican with Mother's beatification on Oct. 19.

Chaplain

The pilgrimage, "The Living Saint Beatified," will have Fr. Renato Jose Lopez as chaplain. The pre-beatification itinerary stars on Oct. 7 with a flight from Manila to Lisbon, proceeding to Salamanca, Burgos, and Lourdes. Oct. 11 is devoted to visiting the holy shrines at Lourdes.

Oct. 12 takes the group to the walled city of Carcassone, continuing the following day to Nice, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Pisa and Florence. Oct. 14 is devoted to Florence and the "towering" town of San Giminiano.

On Oct. 15, it's on to Assisi and Cascia. Oct. 16, to Lanciano, site of the first known Eucharistic Miracle. Oct. 17, to San Giovanni Rotondo and the tomb of St. Padre Pio.

Oct. 18, the beatification itinerary proper: In Rome, pilgrims will visit the major basilicas. Oct. 19, they will attend the beatification activities at the Vatican in the morning. Later in the day, they will visit the famous pilgrimage site of Divina Amore and the Fontana de Trevi. Oct. 20, they will take the morning flight back to Manila. *(To be concluded)*

Superstardom requires more than just talent

By Behn Cervantes

OF course, movie fans today are familiar with the term "superstar." Before the word was coined, popular Hollywood actors were merely called stars—just earthbound beings with exceptional beauty, talent, charisma, or all three.

Audience impact

When stardom became synonymous with influence, salary demands, preferred working conditions and audience impact, that was when the term "Superstar" was born.

Those in the contemporary scene who come to mind as deserving of the accolade are Clint Eastwood, Julia Roberts and Tom Hanks.

However, before these major stars emerged, there were great stars who were attached to the legendary studios. They were called stars but they were actually controlled and manipulated by the likes of tyrannical Louis B. Mayer.

During the silent film era, Gloria Swanson, Doughlas Fairbanks Sr. and Mary Pickford reigned. In comedy, there was the multi-talented Charlie Chaplin, who starred in, scripted, directed and produced his one-reelers.

STREISAND. Original and versatile talent.

Talkies

When the talkies came, the divine Ms Garbo moved from silent to sound with aplomb. In drama, Katharine Hepburn and Bette Davis were winners of multiple acting awards who always challenged the authority of the studio bosses.

Platinum-haired Jean Harlow and Marilyn Monroe were sexy superstars. They exploited their natural endowments, thus filling the screen with excitement and sex appeal.

The youth went gaga over the likes of James Dean and Elvis Presley, one vivifying their angst, and the other singing their tunes while rocking and rolling their blues away. Marlon Brando was an original and a rebel. His life and career are constantly peppered with events of tabloid interest.

Unconventional

Another great original is the uniquely talented Barbra Streisand, who has not only won awards, but has also remained unconventional. Because of her consistency and credibility, she is now admired as *the* Barbra Streisand, a true superstar respected even by politicians, who court her support.

The contemporary film scene is more feverish than the past because superstars now have the freedom to choose their scripts, the means to produce their own films, and the power to tell the money people to do it their way, or else!

Superstars today hold sway over their countless fans. Their international influence is not limited to the areas of entertainment. They have an impact on society itself.

Gene Cajayon on his long journey to Hollywood

By Rito P. Asilo

GENE Cajayon, director of Cinemanila's opening film "The Debut," flew in from the US to promote the movie, which opened in local theaterstwo weeks ago.

Awards

"The Debut," winner of a number of awards at film festivals abroad, is the first Filipino-American movie released by Sony, a division of TriStar and Columbia Pictures. Excerpts from our interview with its maker:

How did you find working with our local actors—Tirso Cruz III, Gina Alajar, Eddie Garcia?

The Filipino actors did a bang-up job in the movie, they saved my bacon as a first-time director.

There are comparisons to "American Adobo"...

"American Adobo" is a very valuable film in that if you went to a double feature of "American Adobo" and "The Debut" side-by-side, I think you would get a sense of the very broad spectrum of different Filipino-American experiences. Those were very valid experiences that "Adobo" portrayed.

Insider's perspective

"The Debut" is very much more from an insider's perspective, whereas "American Adobo" is the outsider's view looking in. Both films are valuable in that they accurately portray particular situations of the Filipino-American experience.

It took you eight years to create "The Debut," and another three to sell it. How did it come about in the first place?

It started out as a student film, my thesis project as a film major at LMU, a Jesuit university in LA. These days, the quick and illustrious path to Hollywood is to make a really good student film, get noticed in the festival circuit, get an agent, then work your way up through Hollywood.

I was no different, I bought into that whole theory of a director, lock, stock and barrel. When I entered film school at 18, I started saving up and getting ready to do a big, elaborate thesis project to hopefully get me an agent and to get me on my way—that's the very naïve mentality that I had towards what it meant and what it took to be a filmmaker.

It started out as a 30-minute student film. In its very humble beginnings, it was going to be a movie about my buddies, who all happened to be Filipinos. It wasn't like I actively chose to have all Filipino friends—it just happened.

CAJAYON. Director of the first Filipino-American movie released by Sony.

Significance

The social and political significance of the fact that I either consciously or subconsciously chose all Filipino-American friends eluded me at the time, I didn't understand how important that was and what that meant in my life.

So, I started researching the screenplay, I read books on Philippine-American history and values. At about the same time, I started realizing that you never see us portrayed positively in American films.

America is a very diverse country, yet its films which, coincidentally, are made in two of the most diverse cities in the country—New York and Los Angeles—don't reflect the diversity of the country. There's a lot of inherent institutional racism happening in Hollywood on a day-to-day basis.

If I was going to continue to work as a filmmaker, it wasn't out of the need to make Hollywood popcorn flicks, it was going to be about making movies that meant to promote diversity in movies—"diversity" as in putting people of color, not just Filipinos on the screen.

People who read a draft of the screenplay told me that this story was much too big for a thesis project, that what I had in my hands was a feature film.

Early draft

I took an early draft of the script, shot the first 10 minutes, used that brief intro to get my degree and get financing for my final main project. It took eight years, from the time we came up with the original idea in 1992 to May of 2000, to actually finish the film and show it for the first time.

What were you doing in between?

Mostly, I worked on the film full-time, 18 hours a day. When it wasn't that intense, I got two full-time jobs, I would have my day job in retail with my parents' small business, selling stereos and all sorts of stuff.

What do your parents do?

They're small-business owners, they have retail shops in Southern California. For quite a few years, I worked for them, that's how I paid the bills. I did that all day, and spent all night doing "Debut" stuff. I'd have three or four hours sleep. When the movie really got intense, I would live off credit and work on the movie full-time.

You were born in the US?

I was born in Vietnam. My dad is Filipino, my mom is Vietnamese-French. My dad went to Vietnam to work, met my mom, got married, and they had me. He went ahead to America before I was born and sent back for us when he was settled in—I was about a year old.

Poor

We were poor, we didn't have anything. We are very much the "American Dream" success story. We had nothing. We had a small room, just a table, no air conditioner, a couple of windows, that's it.

Do you speak Tagalog?

Konti lang.

But you understand it?

Konti lang. My mom doesn't speak Tagalog, my dad doesn't speak Vietnamese. The only common language they spoke together was English. I never heard enough of one language or the other around the house to really be able to pick up any of them.

Have you been exposed to Filipino films?

Yes, some. I watched a lot of Filipino films in the process of casting the movie, because I knew very little about movies done here.*(To be concluded)*

AIM offers another arts management course

By Nestor U. Torre

LAURICE Guillen (third from left, third row) was the president of the AIM class last February. Beside her in this exuberantly happy graduation photo is popular actor Marvin Agustin, another determined workshopper who finished the two-week course.

LAST February, we had the good fortune of taking the Asian Institute of Management's mind- and skills-expanding two-week course, Managing the Arts. Along with 27 other artists who completed the challenging and exciting program, we felt we needed to learn more about the business side of creativity so that we could become better arts administrators.

Mutually exclusive

Initially, the arts and business would appear to be mutually exclusive, and even at cross-purposes with one another. After all, when an artist creates, he responds to internal impulses that have nothing to do with the financial bottom line. Conversely, the businessman is interested, not in self-expression, but in profit.

Soon enough, however, the program showed that the situation was not as cut-and-dried as that. Using a dazzling multiplicity of approaches, program director Prof. Cecile B. Manikan and some of AIM's top gurus showed how the arts and business could not just co-exist, but also help each other make creativity thrive in this country.

This is an important step forward because, for too many years, many artists have languished in obscurity and penury. While lack of prosperity is supposed to be good for the struggling artistic soul, it's also hindered artists from fully developing their talents, and is thus counterproductive. The AIM course strove to turn this negative situation around, and succeeded.

Specific needs

This September, AIM will again hold another Managing the Arts course, and we urge interested artists, businessmen and arts administrators to see if it suits their specific needs and prospects. It's a demanding program that keeps pushing students to do their best from morning till night, but it's well worth the time and effort.

As Professor Manikan astutely observes, "From my own experience, artists have always shied away from management and administrative functions, finding the task dreary, uninspired and alien to the thing they do best—creating art. Yet, functional demands have compelled artists, particularly those in the higher rungs of an organization, to learn management for the sake of their survival in the field. But the process is often tedious.

"How to make formal arts management an interesting course to this special breed of people who need to become managers not by choice but by institutional imperative is the biggest challenge in establishing a special program for them."

Challenge

To successfully meet that challenge, AIM's arts management course has used a fresh combination of approaches that has worked not just locally, but also regionally (the Managing the Arts program has been effectively "exported" to other Asian countries, like Singapore).

The good news is that new editions of AIM's pioneering Managing the Arts course are slated both locally and in Singapore. The course here is scheduled from Sept. 1 to 12 (orientation is on Aug. 30, 9 a.m. to 12 noon). Call 892-4011, local 144 or 167, or email art-management@aim.edu.ph.

We enjoin everyone interested in forging links between art and business to consider taking this course. It certainly did wonders for us. As for the next Singapore course, it will be held from Dec. 1 to 7, 2003.

Best burger treats

I BECAME aware that of my love for burgers when I was in Paris in the '70s. After working in our restaurant, I walked all the way to the Champs Elysees to a fast food joint that displayed pictures of appetizing-looking burgers.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Popular

I loved those burgers and later realized they were popular in the United States as well. That was my first encounter with McDonalds. Their burgers, especially the Big Mac, were delicious.

Here in Manila, the best burger is still from Monique Trinidad Toda's coffee shop, located at the lounge of New World Hotel. Now, *that is* what I call a juicy and delicious burger!

In the last few years, burger joints have been sprouting left and right. But, like the shawarma or sago, many have come and gone.

On my way to work, I used to drive by four burger joints. Of these, only two have stayed in business. After having tried all four, I understand why those two are still around.

While most burgers are great in a bun, there are burgers that go well with rice as *ulam.*

Toppings

The Bite Club has been around for a few years now. Created by one of our chefs, it boasts of burgers in various sizes with a dozen choices of toppings. Personally, I like my burgers plain. At most, I have mayo, lettuce and tomato in the bun. I don't like cheese with my burgers because it overpowers the taste of the meat.

The Bite Club's half-a-pound and one-pound burgers are great choices. Both are super-delicious!

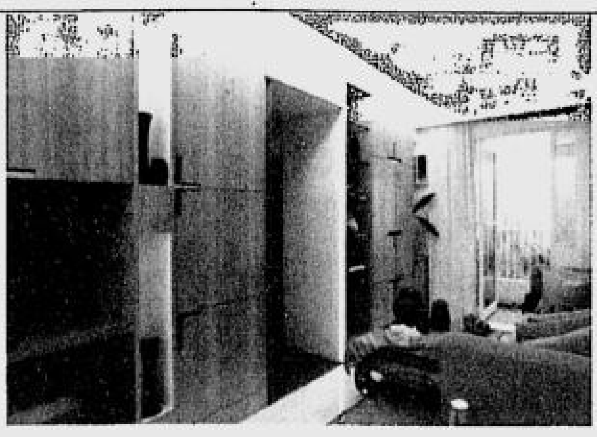
These are frozen patties, broiled over charcoal and squeezed in hot buns. They are very tasty. You can ask for different toppings, such as blue cheese, roasted garlic with cream cheese, etc.

Whatever you prefer, the secret is in that hamburger patty mix. Check them out!

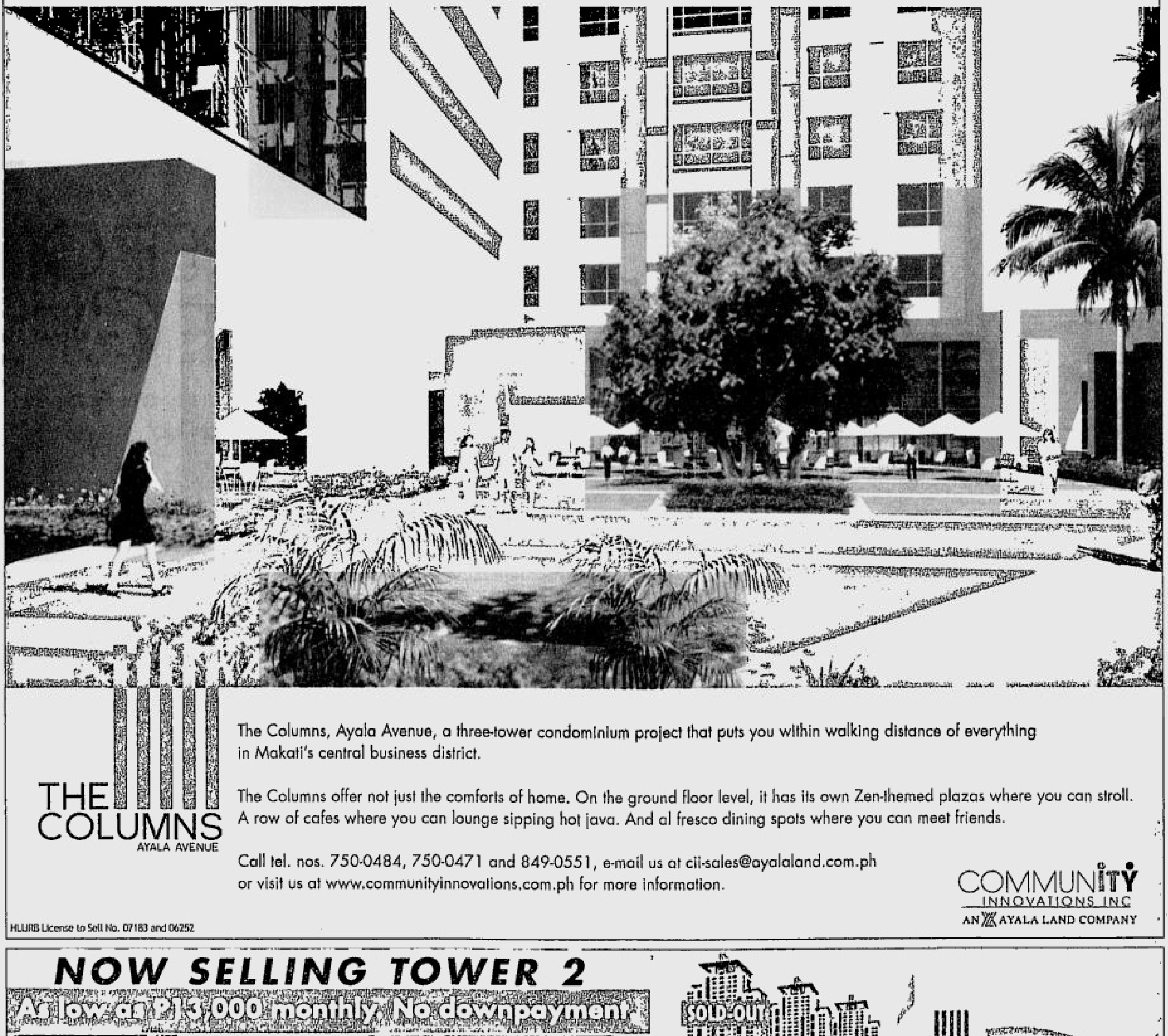
Bite Club is at 213-F. Katipunan ext., across Blue Ridge and Cabalen, QC. They also deliver, but the burgers are best when freshly broiled. Call. 911-0859.

Happy eating!

One bedroom upstairs.



And downstairs, cafes to unwind in, al fresco dining places to entertain friends, and Zen-themed plazas to calm you down.



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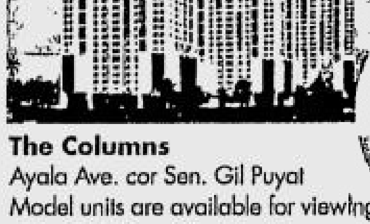

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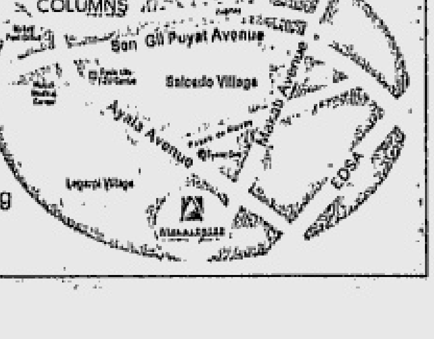

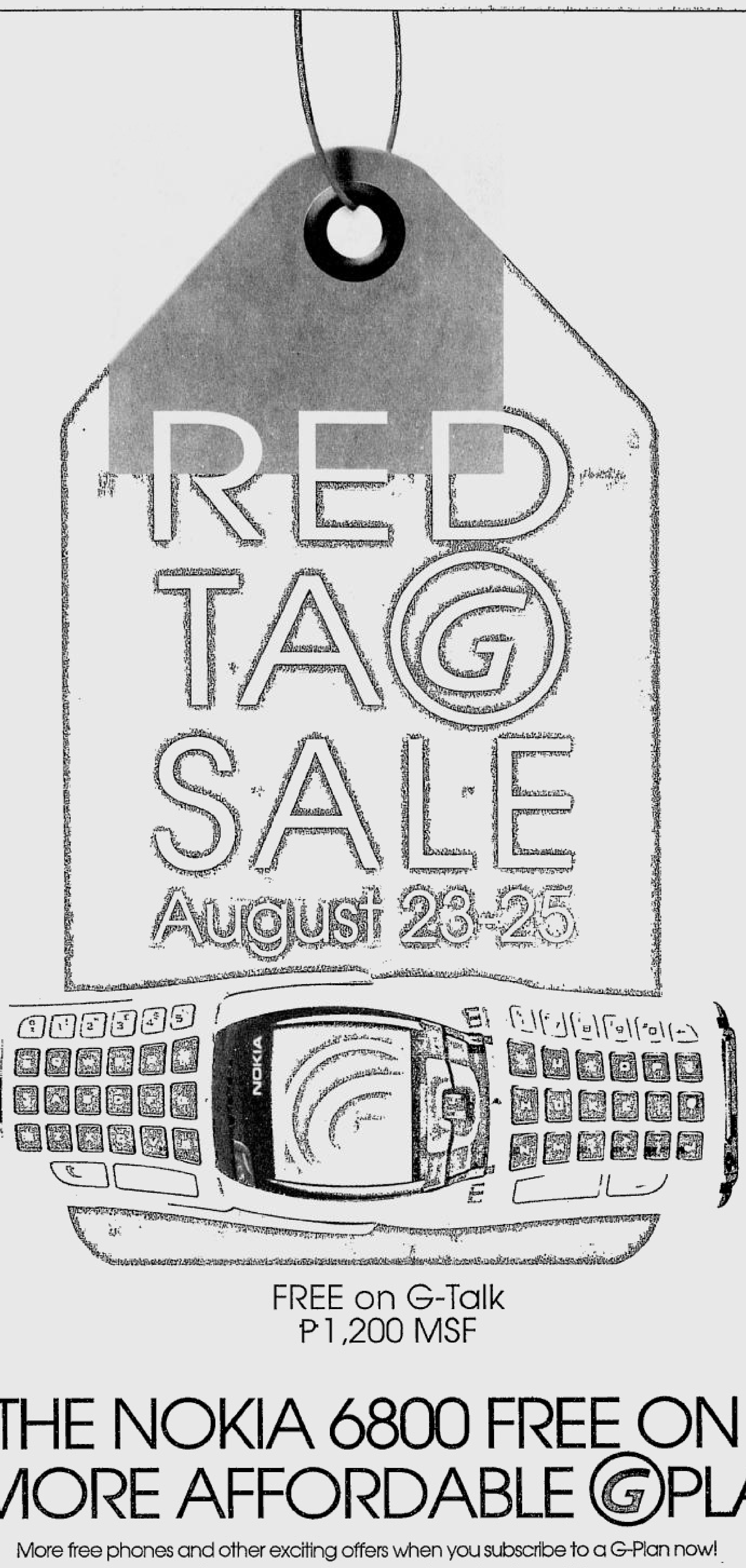

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SATURDAY Special

Edu Manzano, eight times a week

MANZANO. Has trained himself to do well at a multiplicity of tasks.

By Nestor U. Torre

WITH three weekly shows and "Magandang Umaga Bayan" from Monday to Friday, Edu Manzano is now one of the busiest on-camera talents on television.

Busy

In fact, he's so busy as television host, sitcom performer and all-around gaddabout that he hardly has time to make movies.

This is a strange place for an erstwhile film star like him to be, so how and why did Edu end up here?

"Blame" it on the current ratings war between the country's major TV channels, which has made it imperative for television shows to beef up their star value. Since movie leads have star value *plus,* they're logical choices for TV stardom as well.

Never mind if film and TV are supposed to be competitors. The competition between TV channels has made that point moot and academic for the short term (not for the long term, however), so television networks are

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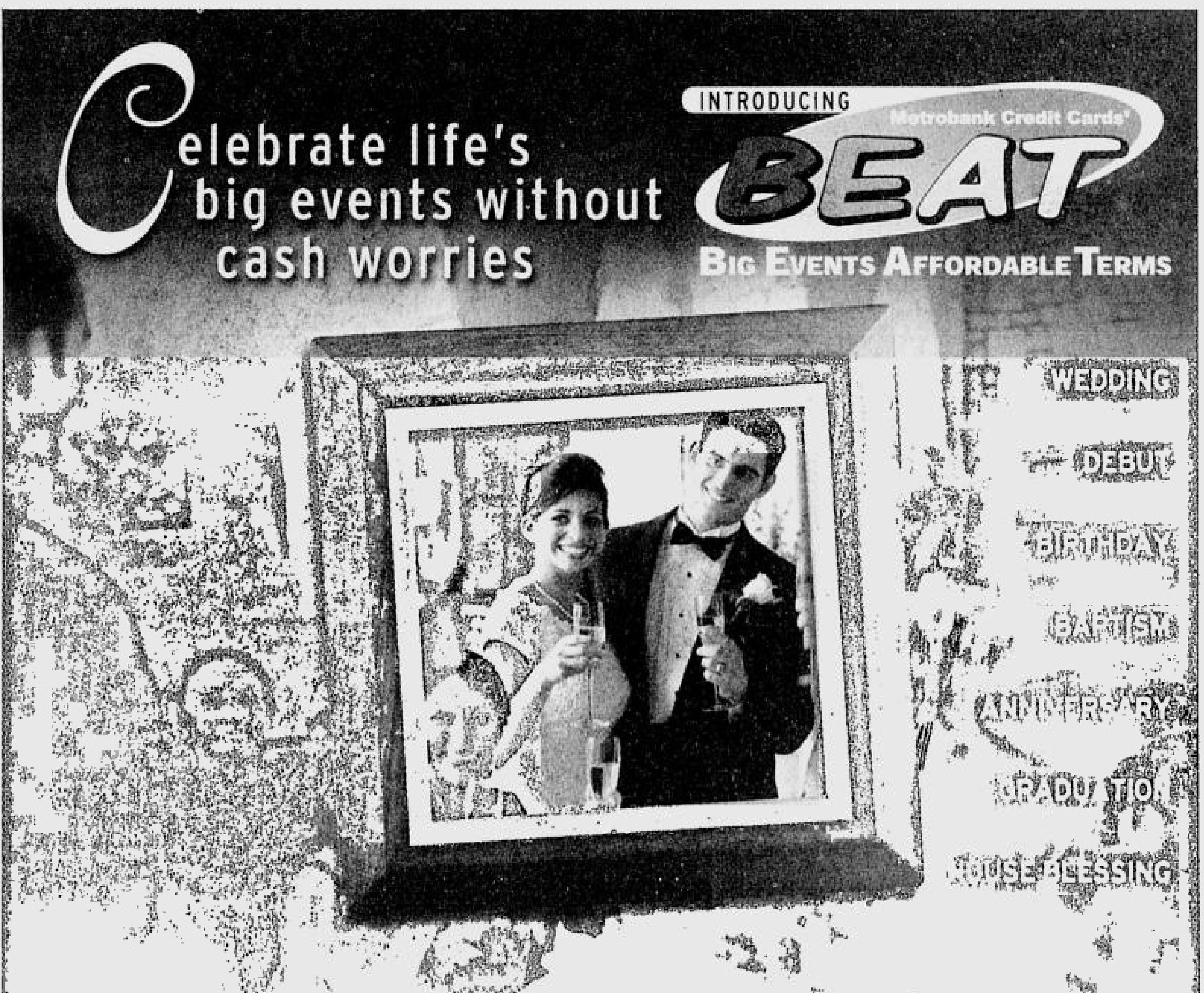

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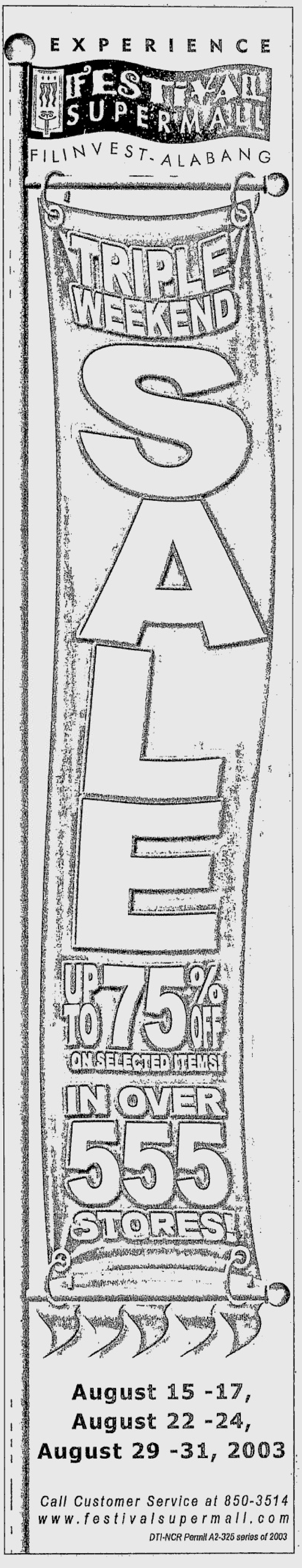

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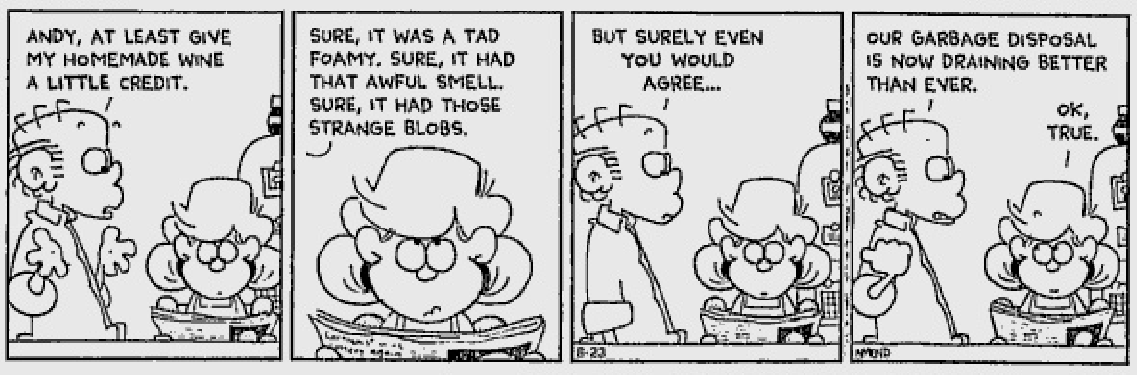
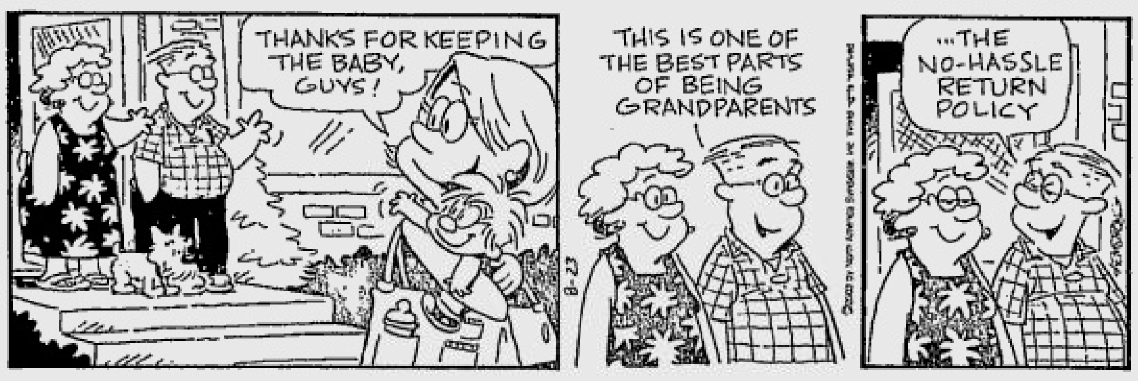
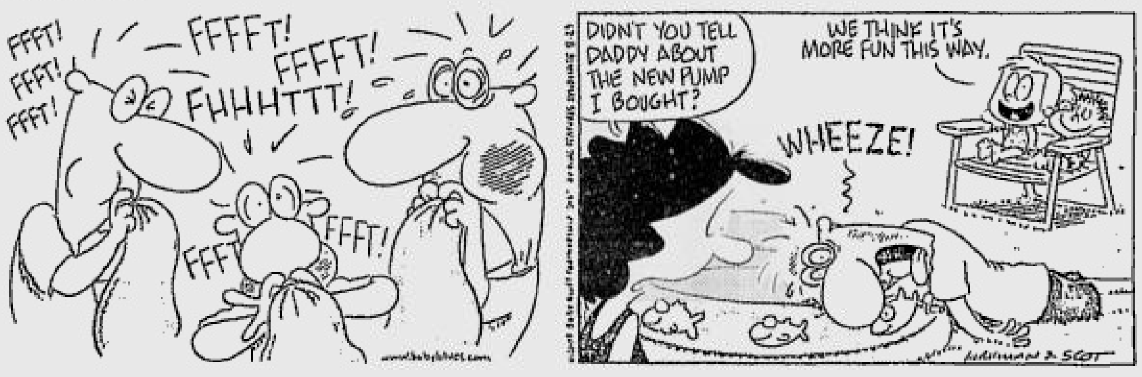
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


ANDY, AT LEAST GIVE MY HOMEMADE WINE A LITTLE CREDIT.
SURE, IT WAS A TAD FOAMY. SURE, IT HAD THAT AWFUL SMELL. SURE, IT HAD THOSE STRANGE BLOBS.
BUT SURELY EVEN YOU WOULD AGREE...
OUR GARBAGE DISPOSAL IS NOW DRAINING BETTER THAN EVER.
OK, TRUE.
8-23

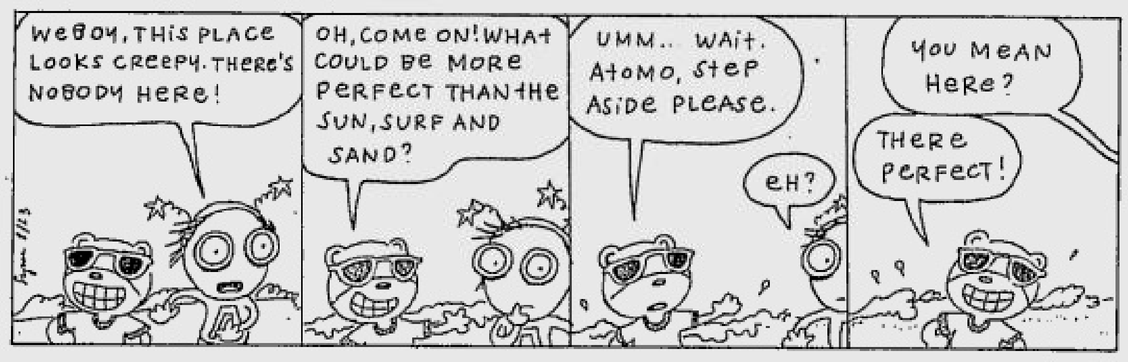
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THANKS FOR KEEPING THE BABY, GUYS!
THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF BEING GRANDPARENTS
...THE NO-HASSLE RETURN POLICY
8-23

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


FFFT! FFFT! FFFT!
FFFFT!
FFFFT!
FHHHTTT!
FFFT!
FFFT!
DIDN'T YOU TELL DADDY ABOUT THE NEW PUMP I BOUGHT?
WE THINK IT'S MORE FUN THIS WAY.
WHEEZE!
www.babyblues.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy, THIS PLACE LOOKS CREEPY. THERE'S NOBODY HERE!
OH, COME ON! WHAT COULD BE MORE PERFECT THAN THE SUN, SURF AND SAND?
UMM.. WAIT. ATOMO, STEP ASIDE PLEASE.
EH?
YOU MEAN HERE?
THERE PERFECT!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intense and poised; you have style. You need to be in control. You often master a particular technique. Many of you are skilled at earning money, in part, due to your willingness to confront any situation. This year, you will let go of many things in order to move on to new beginnings next year.
Birthdate of: Shelley Long, actress; Kobe Bryant, basketball player; River Phoenix, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Capitalize on your desire to get better organized in your life, both at work and at home. Give yourself the tools to do the job properly.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can look forward to a five-week period of parties, flirtations, new romance and opportunities in show business or the entertainment world. Expect fun!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your focus turns now to home and family. Plan to make improvements and take care of repairs. Set aside time for important family discussions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The tempo of your daily routine accelerates now. Get used to this, because it will remain this way for about a month. You've got places to go, people to see and things to do!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus turns in a very serious way to money and how you can establish greater control in your life through your possessions. Listen to your own moneymaking ideas now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Sun is in your sign now, where it will stay for the next four weeks. This is your time to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. Happy birthday!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You definitely need increased rest, peace and quiet. Your sleep patterns are often irregular, because you socialize extensively, then you need to hide for two or three days. That time has come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your popularity rating certainly starts to soar now! Expect invitations from friends, groups, clubs and organizations. Everybody wants to see you.

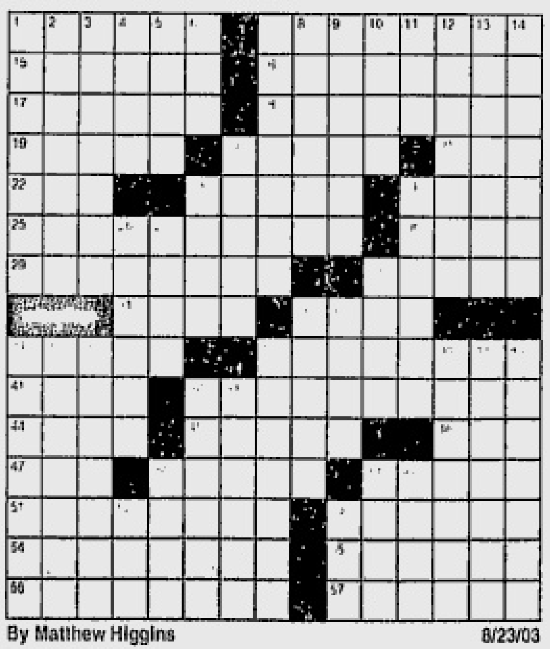
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): As the Sun moves into Virgo today, you will find that your power in the world increases. It stays this way for at least a month. Accept this with grace and quiet pride.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Go ahead with plans for travel or taking a course to expand your education in any way. You have a desire to expand your horizons now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Self-help books and courses might appeal to you now. You suddenly feel an urge to improve yourself in any way. Work to get on top of bills, debt and taxes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your closest friendships and partnerships become increasingly important in the next few weeks. Give extra time to those areas of your life. You need to talk some things through with others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

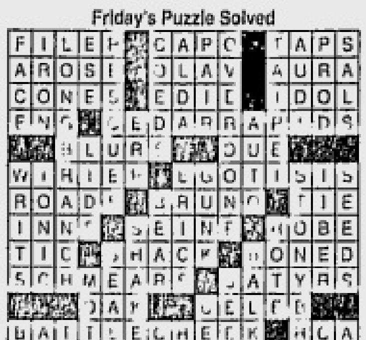


By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
8/23/03

ACROSS
1 Foreboding atmosphere
7 Swaggering displays of courage
15 Brunch choice
16 Strict adherent to the law
17 Swell
18 Dissipate like vapor
19 Clothes lines?
20 Chew the scenery
21 Regret bitterly
22 Fri. follower
23 Banish
24 "__ Fiction"
25 Galbraith and Malthus, e.g.
28 October birthstone
29 Ill-tempered
30 French measure
31 Ernie's Muppet buddy
32 Guitar ridge
34 Started
37 Indian sovereign
41 Lively dance
42 Trial models
44 Bear of stars
45 Openings
46 Pompous person
47 Take one's chair
48 Concrete
49 Swahili or Zulu
51 Capable of being cured
53 Mental confidence
54 Trellis
55 New York skater
56 Military jail
57 Spirited horses

DOWN
1 Fluffy desserts
2 Charge with wrongdoing in office
3 Turf ventilator
4 Like unlikely chances
5 Muddle
6 Had dinner
7 Defect
8 Insurrection
9 Playing marbles
10 Wind indicator
11 Pint drink
12 Cause disorder
13 Pertaining to kissing
14 Church topper
20 Live
23 Abu Dhabi leader
24 Frost's output
26 Science fiction award
27 WWI poet Wilfred
30 Essence
32 Destined
33 Greek letters
34 Painter's tools
35 Most uncanny
36 Terrorist police force
37 "The Imaginary Invalid" playwright
38 Support for a monarch's family: var
39 Settled in and got comfortable
40 Publishers
42 Irrational dread
43 Turned over and over
48 Bacteriologist Jonas
49 Tub toy
50 "Rule Britannia" composer
52 Fond du __, WI
53 Virginia Woolf novel, "__ Dalloway"

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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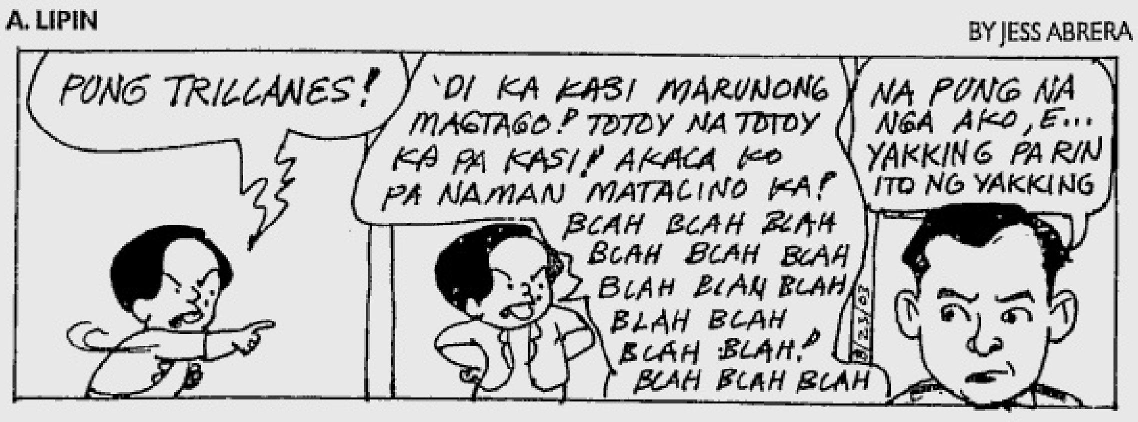
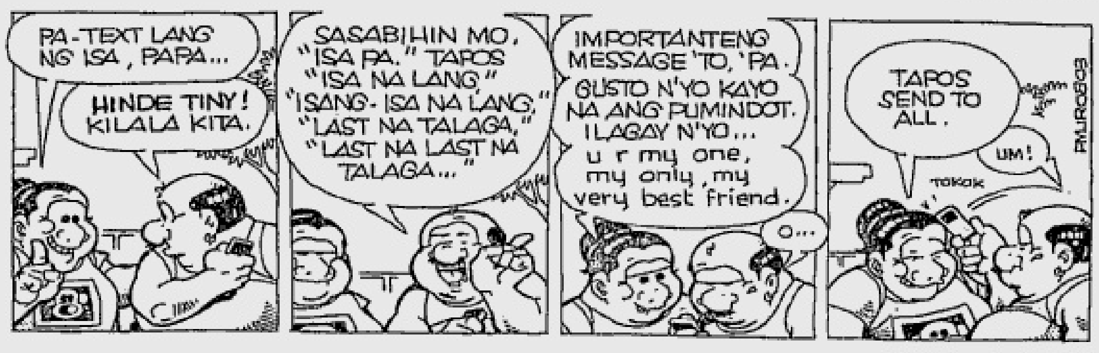
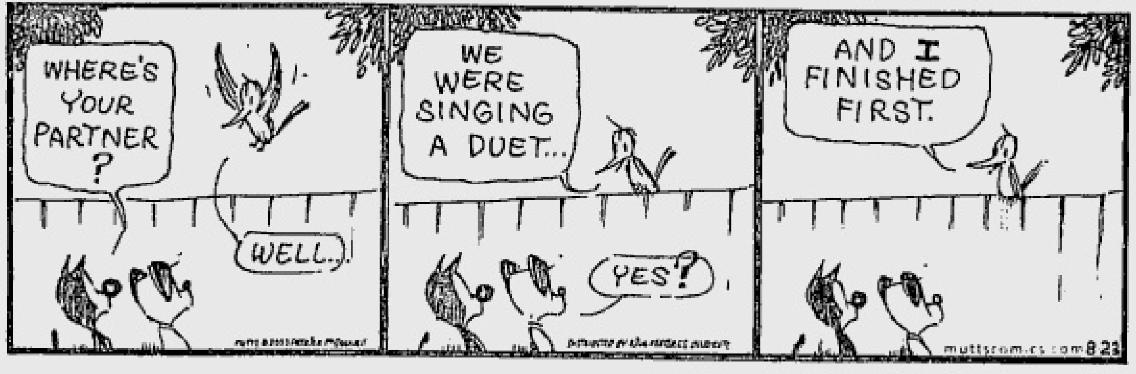
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PONG TRILLANES!
'DI KA KASI MARUNONG MAGTAGO! TOTOY NA TOTOY KA PA KASI! AKALA KO PA NAMAN MATALINO KA! BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH! BLAH BLAH BLAH
NA PONG NA NGA AKO, E... YAKKING PA RIN ITO NG YAKKING
8/23/03

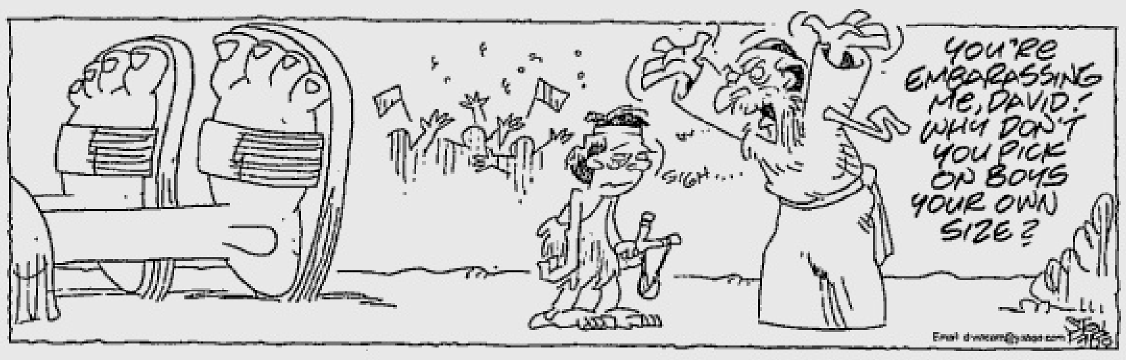
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA-TEXT LANG NG ISA, PAPA...
HINDE TINY! KILALA KITA.
SASABIHIN MO, "ISA PA." TAPOS "ISA NA LANG," "ISANG-ISA NA LANG," "LAST NA TALAGA," "LAST NA LAST NA TALAGA..."
IMPORTANTENG MESSAGE 'TO, 'PA. GUSTO N'YO KAYO NA ANG PUMINDOT. ILAGAY N'YO... u r my one, my only, my very best friend.
O...
TAPOS SEND TO ALL.
UM!
TOKOK
PMJR0803

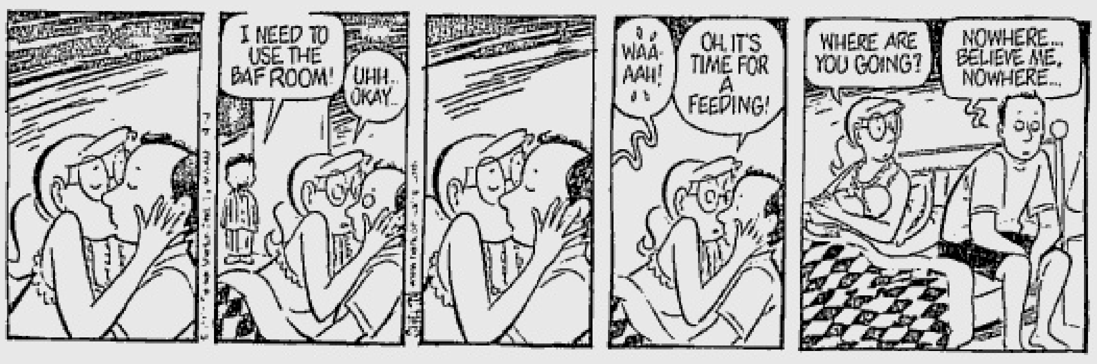
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER?
WELL..
WE WERE SINGING A DUET...
YES?
AND I FINISHED FIRST.
muttscomics.com 8-23

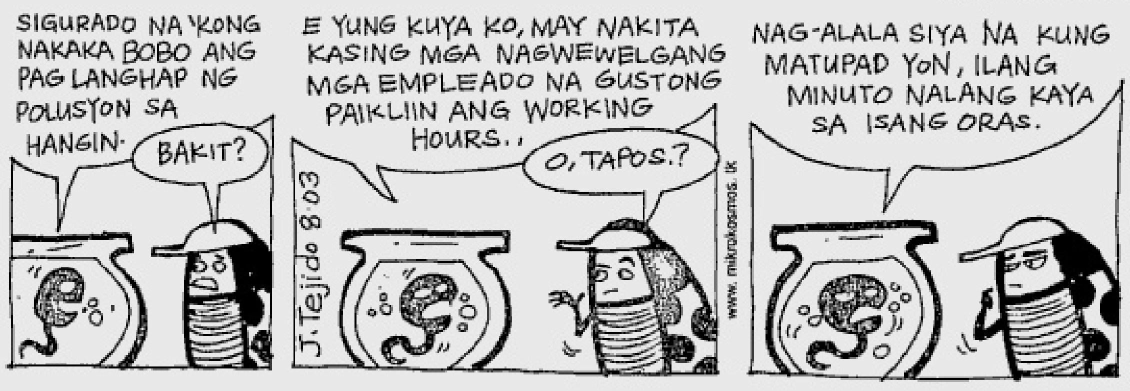
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SIGH...
YOU'RE EMBARASSING ME, DAVID! WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON BOYS YOUR OWN SIZE?

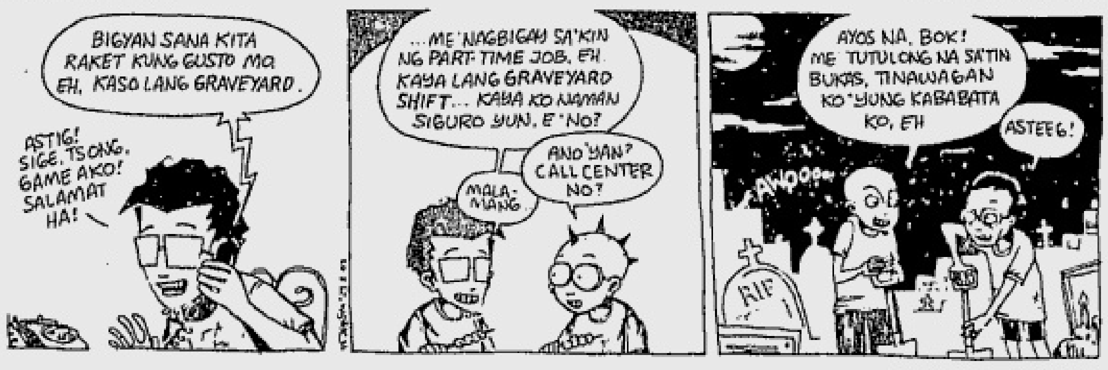
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I NEED TO USE THE BAF ROOM!
UHH.. OKAY..
WAA-AAH!
OH, IT'S TIME FOR A FEEDING!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
NOWHERE... BELIEVE ME, NOWHERE...

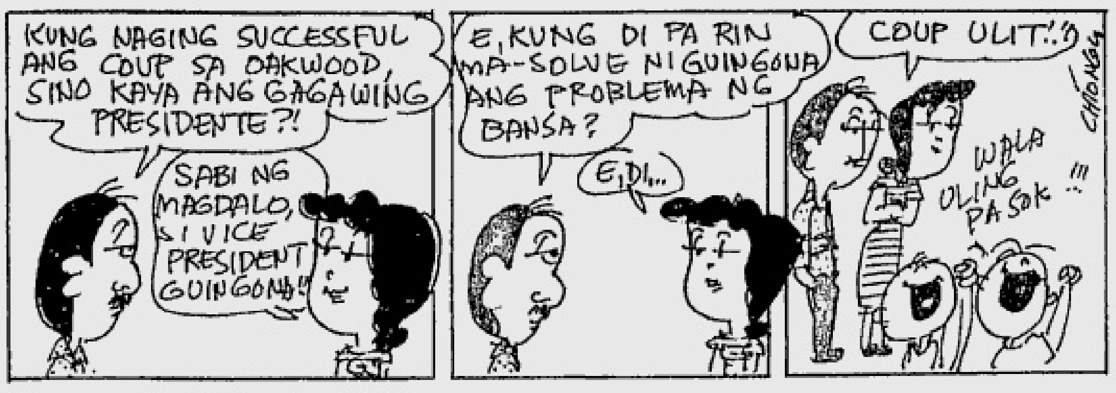
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIGURADO NA 'KONG NAKAKA BOBO ANG PAG LANGHAP NG POLUSYON SA HANGIN.
BAKIT?
E YUNG KUYA KO, MAY NAKITA KASING MGA NAGWEWELGANG MGA EMPLEADO NA GUSTONG PAIKLIIN ANG WORKING HOURS..
O, TAPOS.?
NAG-ALALA SIYA NA KUNG MATUPAD YON, ILANG MINUTO NALANG KAYA SA ISANG ORAS.
J. Tejido 8.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

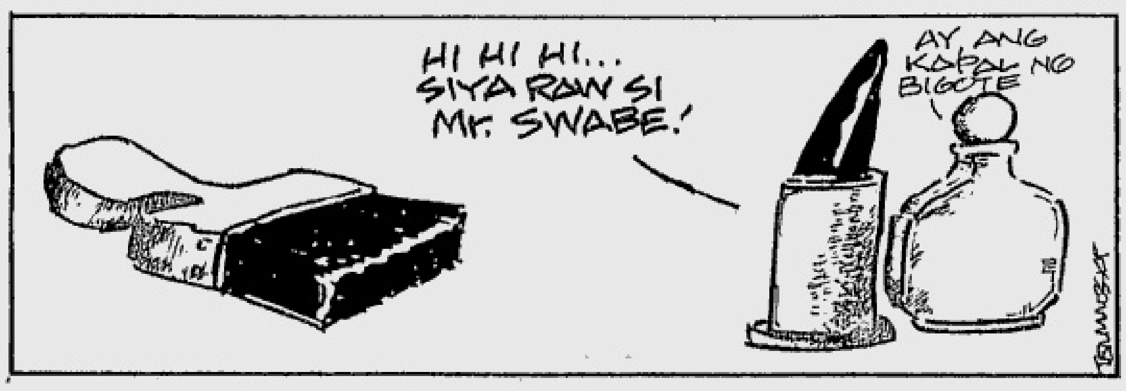
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


BIGYAN SANA KITA RAKET KUNG GUSTO MO EH, KASO LANG GRAVEYARD.
ASTIG! SIGE, TSONG. GAME AKO! SALAMAT HA!
...ME NAGBIGAY SA'KIN NG PART-TIME JOB, EH. KAYA LANG GRAVEYARD SHIFT... KAYA KO NAMAN SIGURO YUN, E 'NO?
ANO 'YAN? CALL CENTER NO?
MALAMANG
AYOS NA, BOK! ME TUTULONG NA SA'TIN BUKAS, TINAWAGAN KO 'YUNG KABABATA KO, EH
ASTEEG!
AWOOO
RIP

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG NAGING SUCCESSFUL ANG COUP SA OAKWOOD, SINO KAYA ANG GAGAWING PRESIDENTE?!
SABI NG MAGDALO, SI VICE PRESIDENT GUINGONA!
E, KUNG DI PA RIN MA-SOLVE NI GUINGONA ANG PROBLEMA NG BANSA?
E, DI...
COUP ULIT!
WALA ULING PASOK!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HI HI HI... SIYA RAW SI Mr. SWABE!
AY, ANG KAPAL NG BIGOTE

MANZANO (right) with Alfie Lorenzo on the set of their show biz talk-variety program.

Edu Manzano, eight times a week

From page E1

hiring movie stars left and right.

But why, instead of performing in only one show, is Edu on four different programs every week? "Blame" *that* on his versatility—because, through the years, Edu has trained himself to do well at a multiplicity of tasks.

Politics

Through the years, he's been a talk-show host, comedian, quizmaster, awards-night emcee, and has even hosted programs that touch on politics and public affairs. Will he end up anchoring a newscast next? —Stop! There are limits.

The big shift for Edu currently is his transformation as the co-host of a weekday morning show. Not only does the job require him to get up with the roosters, but it also tasks him with covering a multitude of topics each morning.

Since the format of his morning show is too regimented, we sometimes sense that Edu is chafing at having to introduce segment hosts, who then introduce field reporters, who *finally* discuss the feature at hand.

More upbeat

A get-up-and-go guy like Edu can't be happy about all that "introducing" bit, and he's decidedly more upbeat when he's given the chance to do a relatively long interview.

On his show biz talk-variety show, Edu looks nonplussed on occasion, especially when his co-hosts trade barbs with each other, or when the show biz topic is too trivial to be endured.

On his sitcom, Edu feels more at home, because comedy is something that comes naturally to him, bless his cockeyed soul.

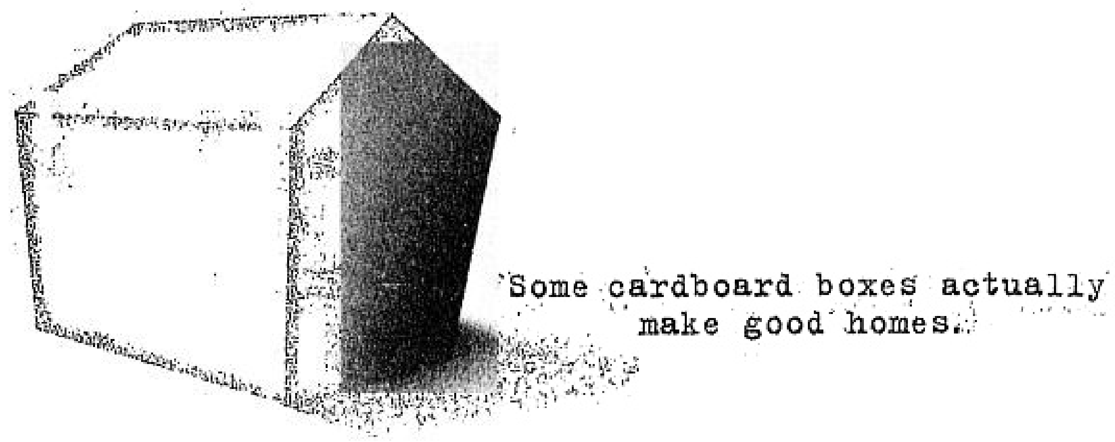
As for his weekend noontime variety show, this is his weakest showcase, because it sometimes requires him to play the "old" klutz who's patronized by the program's young stars, who include his son Luis. This gimmick isn't funny at all, because the young stars are clearly out of their league, and Edu should be patronizing *them!*

Indication

We congratulate Edu for suddenly being regarded by ABS-CBN as God's gift (of the month) to television. It must be observed, though, that Edu's being put into so many shows at ABS-CBN is an indication of how shallow that network's pool of talents is.

Also, all that exposure could lead to audience satiety, which in turn could result in an abbreviated TV career for the overexposed talent.

Our last word: Edu may be doing well in the various program types that he's presently handling, but he's at his best as a late-night talk show host. *When* will TV producers give him another talk show where he can really strut his stuff?


Some cardboard boxes actually make good homes.

Every McDonald's Happy Meal you buy helps build a Bahay Bulilit Daycare Center, and gets a child off the streets. bahay BULILIT

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Per DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO. 0452 SERIES OF 2003 new territory®

txt m
how r u?
hi! i miss u :(cnt w8 2 c u!
whn r u cmng hme? :)
miss u ch. hows ur day goin? u ? :)
hows d weathr thr? is it still snowing? keep urself warm alwys :)
did u get d pckge frm mnla? lets meet in vncouvr nxt summr? :)
hows ur new job? hav a gr8 tym ok? :) c u in summer! hav u eatn alrdy
m just a txt away, so txt me na lang there ok? take ca
wot r u doin now? whn r u cmng hme?
lets talk abt my plan 2 visit u thr.

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SATURDAY Special

CHAN. Finds it hard to cater to both western and eastern film tastes at the same time. AFP

Action star Jackie Chan isn't so tough offscreen

The film hero admits he's meek and superstitious

BEIJING—High-kicking action film hero Jackie Chan might risk life and limb on the silver screen but in real life, Asia's hottest star admits he is meek and superstitious.

New flick

"I never park my car under a flyover for fear that it might fall and crush the car and me," he said in Beijing where he is promoting his new flick, "The Medallion," which is being released in China a week before the rest of the world.

"I have never tried riding on a roller-coaster for fun, being afraid of any accidents, just in case." But all this changes when the martial arts stunt star gets on the set.

"Once I enter the movie site, I am ready to do any move by myself. I have no fear at all because I know that the camera records everything," he told the Beijing Weekend newspaper.

"It does not matter to me if my arms or legs are broken then." Chan, 49, made his name in Tinseltown with such pictures as "Rush Hour," with Chris Tucker, and "Shanghai Noon," with Owen Wilson, but admitted they hadn't fared well in China, and that was part of the reason he was in town.

"It is simply hard to cater to both western and eastern tastes at the same time," he said.

Big film market

"I came to the premiere in Beijing not because the plot caters more to the Chinese audience, but that I see there is a big film market in China.

"My foreign partners also think so and want to tap this market more than ever." "The Medallion," which cost $35 million to make, is another of his kung fu-style action pictures and sees him obtaining supernatural powers after a good deed, the paper said.

It teams him with British comic Lee Evans and was shot mainly in Hong Kong. *AFP*

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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

Is Papa malnourished? How to tell

2nd of 5 parts

One Sunday lunch with the family, 74-year old Papa looked thinner, his polo shirt seemed unusually loose. Although his children wanted to dismiss the observation, the truth was, Papa was a bit pale too, especially his mouth and lips.

Right before their eyes, Papa was showing signs of malnutrition. His children brought him to the doctor, fearing these signs could easily have serious health consequences.

A Closer Look at Papa

When a caregiver is with your loved one everyday, it is possible not to notice the signs of malnutrition until the symptoms have become more evident in a matter of months.

To help determine if Papa or Mama is already showing the effects of their poor eating habits and poor nutritional intake, caregivers must watch out for the following physical signs:

- Weight loss
- Muscle wasting (decrease in size of muscle tissue)
- Clothes now seem to have a looser fit
- Obesity
- Pale lips and mouth
- Cracks around the mouth
- Thinning of hair
- Sunken eyes
- Loved one seems confused but doesn't have Alzheimer's disease
- Wounds take longer to heal / chronic infection
- Loss of balance
- Pressure ulcer (otherwise known as bed sore)
- Presence of edema (a swelling of the legs/feet due to excess water retention)
- Lack of energy; apathy

Consequences of prolonged malnutrition

The heart becomes weaker

Immune system is less able to protect against infection

Intestines are less able to absorb the nutrients that are ingested

Delayed healing of wounds

Increased risk of pressure sores

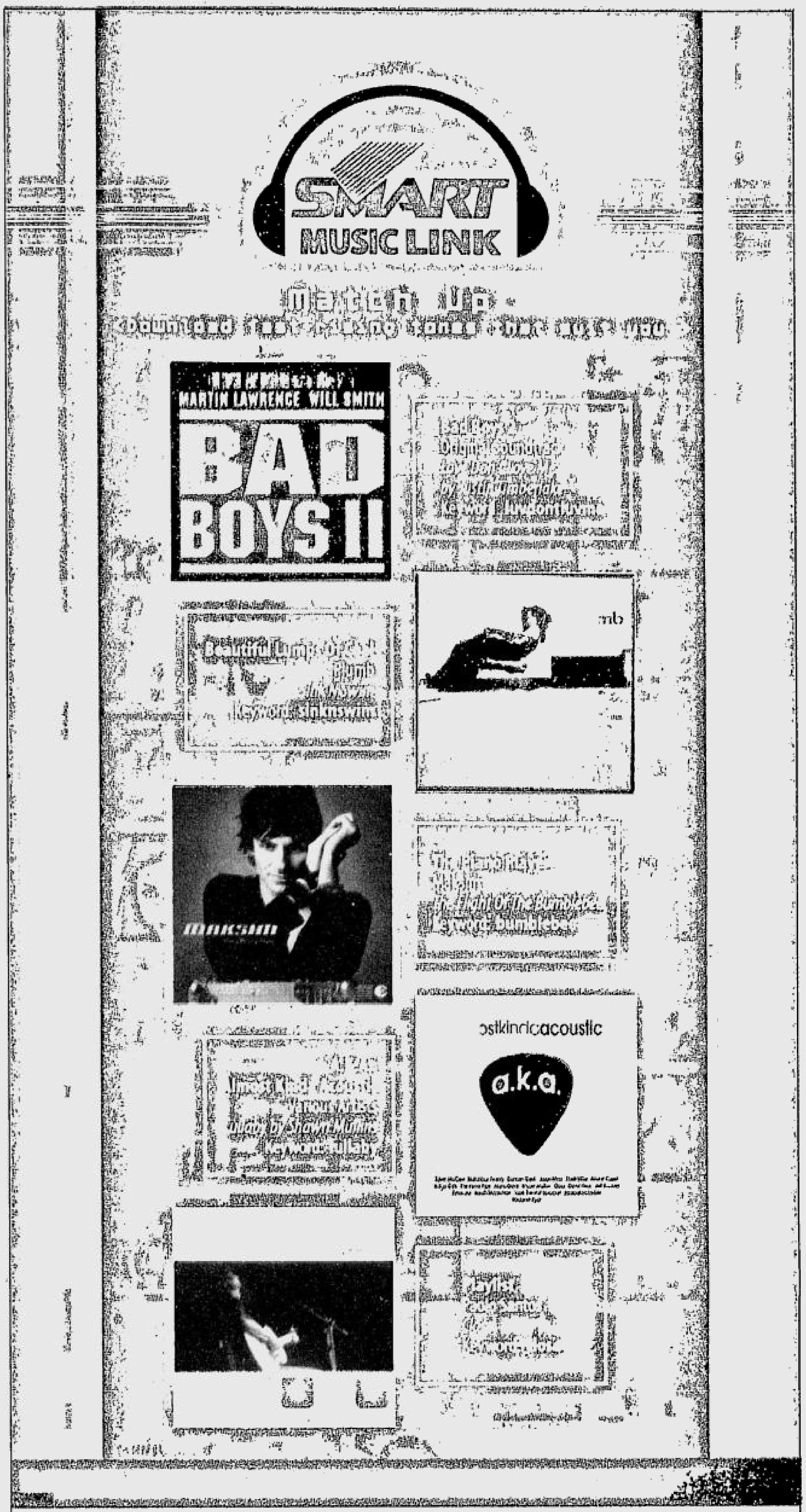
Loss of muscle strength

Increased complications after surgery (e.g. sepsis, wound infection, pneumonia)

In this case, Papa's malnutrition was treated, his mineral imbalances were corrected, his caloric intake normalized. He was given complete oral meal replacement for a more balanced nutrition.

It pays to be suspicious of loved ones who show weight loss, display fatigue and most of the other signs of malnutrition so you can help them gain back a healthier life.

Help your senior loved ones regain a healthier life. Heed the signs of malnutrition and consult your doctor about Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.



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To register, key-in MUSIC and send to 209. To download a regular ringtone, key-in TONE <keyword> and send to 209. To download the polyphonic tone with free album cover, key-in POLY <keyword> and send to 209*. You can also download via WAP. Just visit the SMART WAP site, select Polytones and click on Music Link. To automatically receive one of the featured tones every week, key-in TONE ON (for ringtones) or POLY ON (for polytones) and send to 209.

TOWER RECORDS · VIDEO · BOOKS
Top 25 Albums of the Week
M music

1 **Playlist**
Paolo Santos
keyword: close
2 **A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic**
Various Artists
keyword: lullaby
keyword: deep
3 **Nyoy Volante with Mannos**
Nyoy Volante
4 **Michael Bublé**
Michael Bublé
5 **Bigotilyo**
Parokya Ni Edgar
6 **Heaven**
Nina
7 **The Art Of Letting Go**
Various Artists
keyword: withoutme
8 **Fantasy 4ever**
F4
9 **Waking Hour**
Vienna Teng
10 **Come Away With Me**
Norah Jones
11 **Meteor Garden II**
Original Soundtrack
12 **Dangerously In Love**
Beyoncé Knowles
13 **Meteor Rain**
F4
14 **Black Eyed Peas**
Elephunk
15 **Break Barriers**
Various Artists
16 **Beautiful Because Love Is**
Various Artists
17 **Bling Bling**
Various Artists
keyword: intoyou
18 **Round 2**
Sexbomb Girls
19 **Beautiful Lumps Of Coal**
Plumb
keyword: [illegible]
keyword: [illegible]
20 **Let Me Be The One**
Jimmy Bondoc
21 **The Piano Player**
Maksim
keyword: [illegible]
22 **Hotel Paper**
Michelle Branch
23 **Bad Boys 2**
Original Soundtrack
keyword:
24 **It Had To Be You**
Rod Stewart
25 **Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps**
Various Artists

Other Available Ringtones: What Dreams Are Made Of by Hilary Duff (keyword: [illegible]de)
Hip Hop Star by Beyoncé Knowles (keyword: [illegible]ar)
Independent Woman Part I by Destiny's Child (keyword: [illegible])
Rock With Ya by Ashanti (keyword: rockwithya)
21 Questions by 50 Cent (keyword: [illegible]ions)

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Changing attitudes and trends noted at Cinemanila 2003

By Rito P. Asilo

IN a scene from Stanley Kuan's "Lan Yu," two men kiss as they commence a May-September gay relationship in all their naked splendor.

Discomfort

Some years back, this would have elicited reactions of discomfort from the Filipino audience. But in recent years, we have noticed a distinct change in the mindset and taste of our filmgoing patrons. During the aforementioned scene, there was no clearing of throats nor expression of disgust.

These days, our audiences are harder to shock and are more appreciative of touchy scenes that help explain the story. That's good news for the film industry! There's hope for us, after all.

Here's our Cinemanila 2003 wrap-up:

"Lan Yu," in which a businessman picks up a shy, college guy and starts an affair with him, is just one of Cinemanila's many treats. This is a finely provocative addition to China's growing list of risky gay-themed films ("Peony Pavillion," "Map of Sex and Love").

In "Dogville," Nicole Kidman and Paul Bettany deliver gutsy performances in Lars Von Trier's disturbing morality tale.

NICOLE Kidman plays a beautiful fugitive in "Dogville."

Memorable performances

Aside from memorable performances, the film, shot with most elements of Von Trier's controversial "dogma" filmmaking in mind, tells the story of a beautiful fugitive who hides in a small community whose residents agree to hide her, in exchange for services she renders to each of Dogville's 15 or so families.

People soon start wanting more from her, and the lines between right and wrong blur when Kidman's character goes through an eventful change of heart. For us, this is the best of the fine lot.

"City of God" is Meireiles' ode to the infamous housing project in downtown Rio de Janeiro. You can't *not* be affected by this film— the fast pace, photography and the story that traces the lives of residents of this most feared underworld. We recently saw a documentary feature on the Discovery channel that said most international journalists would rather be assigned to Baghdad, Tikrit or Beirut than set foot in the "City of God."

"The Debut" poses a question to the viewer on how he values his identity as a Filipino. While not perfect, the movie allows us to see our culture in a different light. Listening to a *kundiman* or watching the *tinikling* has never sounded or looked this good. Great performances from local Filipino actors, led by Tirso Cruz III.

Mystery writer

"Swimming Pool," about a mystery writer who encounters her publisher's daughter at a chateau in southern France, may not be groundbreaking, nor is it the controversial film its publicists touted it to be, but it is nevertheless wonderfully crafted, just like most of Ozon's ouevre. He never bores and always has something new to say. It features great performances from "Under the Sand's" Charlotte Rampling and "8 Women's" Ludivine Sagnier.

Carlos Reygadas' "Japon" may have some of the most disturbing sexual scenes in the festival. This is definitely not for the squeamish! But along with its dark themes and story about a moody artist who travels to a remote Mexican town to commit suicide, it also boasts of the most lavishly shot scenes we've seen on film (think Akira Kurosawa's "Dreams")—some shots look like watercolor paintings!

Moviemaking savvy

If South Korean and Thai films have demonstrated their moviemaking savvy in past festivals, it is India and Mexico's turn this year. From India: the endearing "Mr. & Mrs. Iyers," a modern retelling of a doomed love affair in the time of ethnic wars (we've never seen India shot this beautifully); "Maya," a controversial film (the director insists it's based on factual events) about a religious group sanctioning gang rape on its virgins as a rite of passage. And there's "The Crime of Padre Amaro." (Gael Garcia Bernal—need we say more?) From Mexico: "Otilia Rauda and "Dela Calle" soar because of raw storytelling, unpredictability and sexually pervasive themes. *(To be concluded)*

Embarrassment of musical riches

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Aug. 9, Channel 2's "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" held the monthly finals of its Duet Bulilit singing tilt, with five pairs of young singers competing.

Board of judges

They came from different parts of the country and sang so well that the members of the board of judges—George Canseco, Lou Bonnevie and Hajji Alejandro—had a hard time choosing the winning pair. As a result, the decision was a tie, with the monthly prize going to the contestants from Cebu and Makati.

But we're getting ahead of our story: The competition started off on the wrong foot, technically speaking, because the first pair's mikes conked out early in their number—*both* mikes! Naturally, the young singers were thrown off, and their singing was affected, even after the sound problem was fixed.

The four other pairs didn't have to contend with technical problems, so how would the first tandem be fairly evaluated beside their glitch-free performances? It was judiciously decided to have the first pair sing again for the judges during a commercial break, so the problem of fair evaluation was nicely solved.

Tandems

As the five tandems performed, members of the studio audience were clearly impressed with the child singers' outstanding singing voices. This is really par for the course on the local music scene, because Filipinos are especially blessed with musical talent, a veritable embarrassment of musical riches that never fails to astound visitors to our country.

The child talents in the competition *were* outstanding singers, but other aspects of their performance could definitely be improved:

First, their gestures were much too ornate and artificial. Young talents need to be told that gestures should simply underscore the meaning of lyrics, so they should not saw the air with a flurry of fancy but irrelevant movements.

Second, child talents should look like the children they are, and not be made-up and costumed like pint-sized adults.

Third, child talents shouldn't sing love songs, and most definitely shouldn't be made to act "romantic" towards each other.

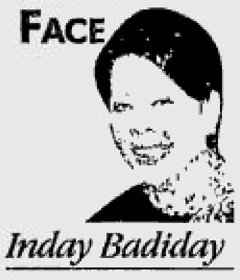
Personal travails

Fourth, the program should stop highlighting the young contestants' personal travails. Last Aug. 9, we were deluged with stories of family illnesses, poverty, deaths, etc., a litany of woes that would all be salved if they emerged as winners in the competition. This is the stuff of *telenovelas*, melodramas and "wish" programs, *not* of singing competitions.

It's really unfair that children here are expected to assume the breadwinning and problem-solving burdens that should be their parents' responsibilities. And this singing competition shouldn't contribute to this misguided notion.

My favorite book

FACE TO FACE



Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I'm dictating this while I'm in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Medical Center. The other day, after my dialysis, I was throwing up everything I took in and was incoherent for a while. So my doctor advised that I be rushed to the hospital immediately. I still don't know what's going on inside this tired, old body—and, Clara, I really don't care. All I know is that God is in control, and I lift up everything to Him.

Roller-coaster ride

Clara, at this point when I am on this exciting roller-coaster ride with the Lord, during which He brings me to the heights and depths of human strength and weakness through situations that make me more submissive to His will, I'd like to tell you a secret:

I'm bursting at the seams with gladness despite the present severity of my condition. I'm talking about my favorite book—the Bible.

I remember a line from "The Warrior is a Child" that goes: *"They don't know who picks me up when I fall down, they don't know who lifts me up when no one is around."*

My sentiments, precisely. The past few years, you know how stormy life has been, but I've managed to sustain some inner tranquillity because of the strength I've discovered in the Word of God.

Manual

A Christian leader once told me that we usually use the life God has given us without first reading the manual that He also has provided. He said, if only we spend time to read it, we'd know how to get the best out of this life. The manual he was referring to was the Bible.

I'd like to share with you some choice passages, Clara. When the going gets tough, they'll surely work wonders for you, as they have for me:

"Then the Lord will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails."—Is 58:11

Indeed, Clara, from the desolation and despair of trials and oppressions, only the magnificent glory of God can deliver us. And only He loves us so much that He made a master plan for our life since the beginning of time. As He said, *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe; plans to give you a future full of hope."*—Jer 29:11

Difficult

Of course, it is quite difficult to find God's way in this world. But then, He provides us with everything that we need to be able to follow Him: *"For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age."* —Tit 2:11

Yes, Clara, God is good all the time, isn't He? And His mercy and kindness are so great that He does not keep a record of our past mistakes, but looks at the condition of our hearts that He has helped cleanse and purify.

"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert, I make a way, in the wastelands, rivers."—Is 43:18-19

Boundless

God's love is truly boundless, Clara. Countless times, I just humbly stand in awe at how truly limitless His affection for me is. *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*—Rom 8:38-39

But the Lord is clear about one thing—He cannot change His rules to cater to our unrighteousness. He is quite unequivocal against evil.

MY FAVORITE/ F3

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 23 - AUG 29

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	6.30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8.00 Home Along da Airport 9.30 Buttercup 10.30 Kontrobersyal 11.30 "F" 12.00 Sports Unlimited	7.00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8.00 The Working President 9.00 To be Announced	7.00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7.30 Mirror, Mirror 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Viva Box Office *Friends in Love* 11.00 Go For Gold	6.00 Search for a Star 6.30 Imbestigador 7.30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.30 Kakabakaba 9.30 Blockbuster Cinema 11.20 Flash Report 11.30 Master Showman	5.00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7.00 7 Days 8.00 John Doe 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 PGMA	6.00 FIBA's America's Qualifying Tournament 8.00 Amazing Twins 9.00 World Pool Championship 11.00 El Shaddai	6.00 Baywatch 7.00 Game Plan 7.30 The Amazing Race 8.30 Boston Public 9.30 Studio 23 Presents 11.30 Reel Deal	7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9.00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	5.30 CBS Evening News 6.00 E! News Weekend 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On
	5.30 Sharon 7.00 Wansapanataym 9.30 Sunday Family Cinema 11.30 Dong Puno Tonight 12.00 The Weekend News	4.00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9.00 The Working President 10.00 Concert of Various Artist *Norah Jones*	6.00 Zorro 6.30 Guyferd 7.00 Ispup atbp. 8.00 Sing-Galing 9.00 Viva Cine Idols *Una Kang Naging Akin* 11.00 Speed	5.30 Partners Mel & Jay 7.00 KI 8.30 Daddy Di Do Du 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office 11.20 Flash Report 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6.00 Smack Down Wrestling 7.00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Match TV 9.00 Sunday's Big Event 11.00 Sunday Report	4.00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9.00 Sinemaks 11.00 Global Family Series 11.30 El Shaddai	6.00 Jimmy Neutron 6.30 Futurama 7.00 Exposed 8.00 Yes Dear 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Will & Grace 9.30 The Bachelor 10.30 Digital Tour	7.00 Sunday Mini-Series 8.00 Oh Tokyo 9.00 Sunday Night movies	5.30 CBS Evening News 6.00 E! Coming Attractions 6.30 FYE 7.00 E! Original Special 8.00 Rank 9.00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10.00 Movies on E!
	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7.00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7.30 Game K N B? 8.00 Darating Ang Umaga 8.30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9.00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11.00 Insider 11.30 The Correspondents	6.00 Concert at the Park 7.00 Strangebrew 7.30 In the Raw 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Family Rosary Crusade 11.00 Auto Focus	6.00 F 6.30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7.30 Kool on Kam 8.30 That 70s Show 9.00 On Air 9.30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Mad TV	6.15 Frontpage 7.00 Lavender 7.40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8.10 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8.50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9.30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11.00 Saksi 11.30 i-Witness	6.00 Dulce Maria 7.00 Just for Laffs 8.00 Jag 9.00 The Agency 10.00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Sex & the City 11.00 OPTV	6.00 Quantum Info 6.30 Global Family Series 7.00 Japan Video Topics 9.00 Global Family Series 9.30 Fight Time at Elorde 10.30 IBC News Tonite 11.00 Linawin Natin	6.00 Beast Machines 6.30 Godzilla 7.00 Batman 7.30 Samurai X 8.00 Birds of Prey 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Travel Time	6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan	6.00 E! News Live 7.00 Behind The Scenes 7.30 Mysteries & Scandals 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 E! News Live 10.00 Best of Late Show 11.00 Wild On
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Iza Calzado introduced in new Viva comedy

By Andy P. Bais

EVERYTHING is coming up roses for young actress Iza Calzado. The tall headturner has just had an eventful stint in a *teleserye* and will soon appear on the big screen.

Butt of jokes

That is quite a feat for someone who, years ago, was the butt of jokes because of her excess poundage. " I was really big—all of 200-plus pounds!" she admits.

How was she able to shed off those unwanted pounds? "I did it for vanity's sake! I started dieting since I was 15 and, until now, I go to the gym and do my workouts," she explains.

Iza's perseverance paid off. She was tapped to appear in a shampoo commercial which turned out to be her passport to show business.

Offers to appear as guest on television came her way and she eventually landed a regular role in "Kung Mawawala Ka," a GMA-7 *teleserye* that ended last May.

CALZADO. Headturner.

The 21-year-old beauty claims she was initially reluctant to pursue an acting career. "Feeling *ko nakakahiya kasi* I had never attended acting workshops, nor had I joined the cast of plays in school. But then, the offer was a rare opportunity for me to test my acting mettle, so I grabbed it, " she says.

Dubber

When "Kung Mawawala Ka" ended, she concentrated on her other TV soap character in "All My Love," though not as an actress but as the lead character's voice dubber.

Dubbing for her *telenovela* character was not an easy task at first. "The first time I did it, I didn't know what I was doing. There was even a time when I drank 10 glasses of water *dahil* I dubbed for six and a half hours for three scripts! But later on, I got the hang of it," she beams.

Iza has an introductory role in Viva Film's "Annie Batungbakal," which stars Jolina Magdangal and Dingdong Dantes. She has also graced billboards as image model of AIIZ (A to Z), a new clothing line.

Iza wants to play different roles as long as they don't require her to do sexy scenes. "I don't think *bagay sa akin kasi* I have nothing to show. The farthest that I could go would be to bare my back," she laughs.

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My favorite book

From page F2

"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."—Gal 5:19-21

What then must we do? *"But to the penitent He provides a way back, he encourages those who are losing hope! Return to the Lord and give up sin, pray to him and make your offenses few. Turn again to the Most High and away from sin, hate intensely what he loathes."*—Sir 17:19-21

Like most people, Clara, I've fallen lots of times. And there have been times when He didn't seem to listen to my pleas. Now, I understand why. *"Rather, it is your crimes that separate you from your God. It is your sins that make him hide his face so that he will not hear you."*—Is 59:2

With stark realization, I seek refuge from this: *"Do not reprove me in your anger, Lord, nor push me in your wrath. Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak; heal me, Lord, for my bones are trembling."*—Ps 6:2-3

And the Lord then lifts me up. For He knows me so well, Clara. He understands me even better than I do myself.

Trap

He knows that one of my greatest areas of sinfulness is the pursuit of material things. *"Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction."*—1 Tim 6:9

Ah, had I known early on . . . But then, I did not read the manual. It further says, *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."*—Mt 6:19-21

And here's another of my favorites: *"Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth, but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment."*—1 Tim 6:17

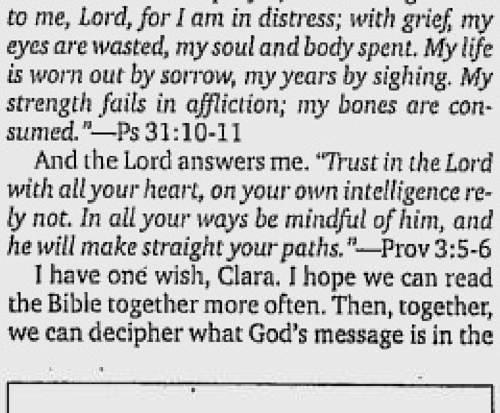
Solace

During times of pain and suffering, I find solace in this little prayer, Clara: *"Be gracious to me, Lord, for I am in distress; with grief, my eyes are wasted, my soul and body spent. My life is worn out by sorrow, my years by sighing. My strength fails in affliction; my bones are consumed."*—Ps 31:10-11

And the Lord answers me. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."*—Prov 3:5-6

I have one wish, Clara. I hope we can read the Bible together more often. Then, together, we can decipher what God's message is in the things that happen in our lives.

(Sometimes, it's just so very difficult, Clara. Please help me pray. I need all the prayers I can get.)



'THE BUTTERFLY'S EVIL SPELL'
Dulaang UP presents Federico Garcia Lorca's "The Butterfly's Evil Spell" in English and Filipino, starting Sept. 10 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater in UP Diliman. Directed by DUP Artistic Director Jose Estrella, the production's cast includes Frances Makil-Ignacio, Eugene Domingo, Andoy Ranay, Ricci Chan, Lex Marcos, Don Karingal and Rabbi Gannaban. Call 926-1349.

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3. Entries must be submitted to AB Communications, Inc. Office, 20/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Ave., Makati City. Deadline of entries is on 18 September 2003, 6:00PM.
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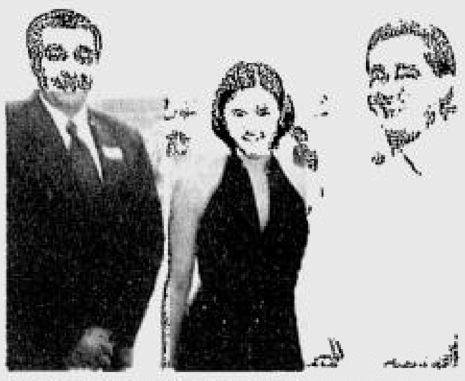
And catch the Extract Therapy Woman herself, Ms. Eula Valdes, share her Beauty Secrets with you on Sundays in these scheduled malls @ 4:00PM.

Wanna stay beautiful? Huwag mong iyakan. Mag-Therapy ka!

Luz Unveils Abstract Collection at the Hub

The Hub is where it's at - the perfect melding of art and technology. From August 15 to September 15, the Hub stores in Podium, G4 and Rockwell Power Plant play host to the most recent abstract creations of National Artist Arturo Luz. This effort is dubbed "Artistic Indulgence", the second in a series of activities for the Hub's Sensory Indulgence campaign,celebrating technology through a multi-sensory experience involving art, music and fine food.

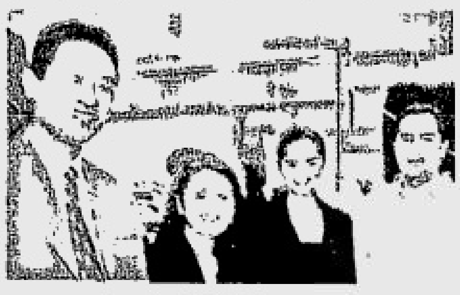
Displayed side-by-side with the latest in mobile technology, the 15-piece collection was unveiled last week at the Hub Podium. "Globe communicates through innovative technology; I communicate through visual imagery. My abstractions feel at home in this environment, " Luz said of the Hub, the retail launch pad of the latest phones and mobile technology.



(L-R) Nokia Country Manager Parikshit Bhasin, ANC news anchor and event host Pinky Webb, Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerry Ablaza at Artistic Indulgence: The Arturo Luz Collection unveiling at the Hub.

The collection was described by the National Artist himself as "a deviation from the recognizable." He added that, "Instead of recognizable images, I explore states of mind and feelings through vocabulary of pure images, color, shape and tone. The results are spontaneous, free and dynamic."

To enhance the visual art experience, Globe Telecom through myGlobe has reproduced in wallpaper format three of the paintings, and is now available for download in MMS-capable phones. Said Luz of this innovation, "I am in favor of anything that brings art and people together, especially the young."

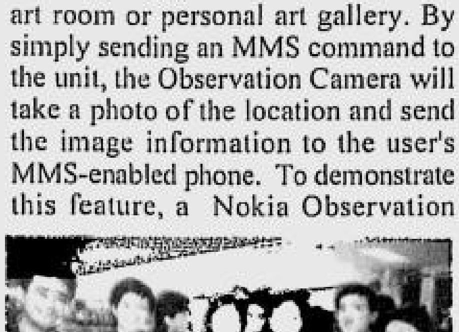


(L-R) Ferdz dela Cruz, Globe Telecom Head-Wireless Business Group; Joanne Racoma, Nokia Account Manager; Raya Roa-Gonzalez, Globe Telecom Head-Retail Marketing and Gerry Ablaza, Globe Telecom President and CEO.

(L-R) Vicki Tan-Yao, Globe Telecom Head-Handsets and Cards Management and Jouni Halme, Nokia Head-Product Marketing at Artistic Indulgence: Arturo Luz Collection unveiling at the Hub.

Completing the celebration of art technology was the launching of the Nokia 7250i and Observation Camera. The 7250i boasts of an advanced integrated CIF-camera with night-mode for taking photos in low-light conditions, portrait imaging, and is more user-friendly with its menu in grid format.

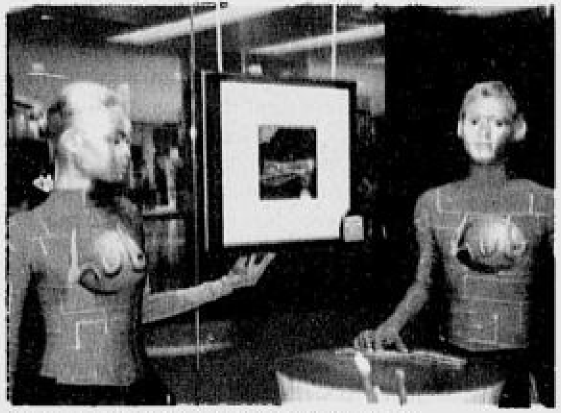
The attendees of the unveiling were also wowed by the Nokia Observation Camera. The Observation Camera can be installed anywhere.- in the house, office, garage, or in this case, in the art room or personal art gallery. By simply sending an MMS command to the unit, the Observation Camera will take a photo of the location and send the image information to the user's MMS-enabled phone. To demonstrate this feature, a Nokia Observation Camera was installed in front of the Luz artwork *'Night Poems'*. From an SMS command sent by the Hub Trons, it took a photo of the painting then sent it to the Hub Tron's 7250i's.



(L-R) Nolan Empalmado, Nokia Product Manager-Observation Camera; Patty Forbes, Globe Telecom Senior Manager-Retail Marketing; Justine Camacho, Globe Telecom Senior Product Manager; Nokia Product Manager Luanne Erni; Fino Ruiz, Globe Telecom Head-VAS; Joanne Racoma, Nokia Account Manager at the launch of Artistic Indulgence: The Arturo Luz Collection unveiling at the Hub.

Globe Telecom's top executives were in full force for the event. Seen were Gerry Ablaza, Globe Telecom's president and CEO; Ferdz dela Cruz, Wireless Business Group Head, Lizanne Uychaco, Head of Wireless Sales and Distribution; Andrew Buay, Chief Operation Advisor. Nokia's Country Manager Parikshit Bhasin and Nokia Head for Product Marketing Jouni Halme were also on-hand to appreciate the national artist's latest abstract series.

(L-R) Parikshit Bhasin, Nokia Country General Manager; Gerry Ablaza, Globe Telecom President and CEO; Lizanne Uychaco, Globe Telecom Head-Wireless Sales and Distribution; National Artist Arturo Luz; Andrew Buay, Globe Telecom Chief Operations Advisor; Ferdz dela Cruz, Globe Telecom Head-Wireless Business Group with Luz's *'Night Poems'* in the background.



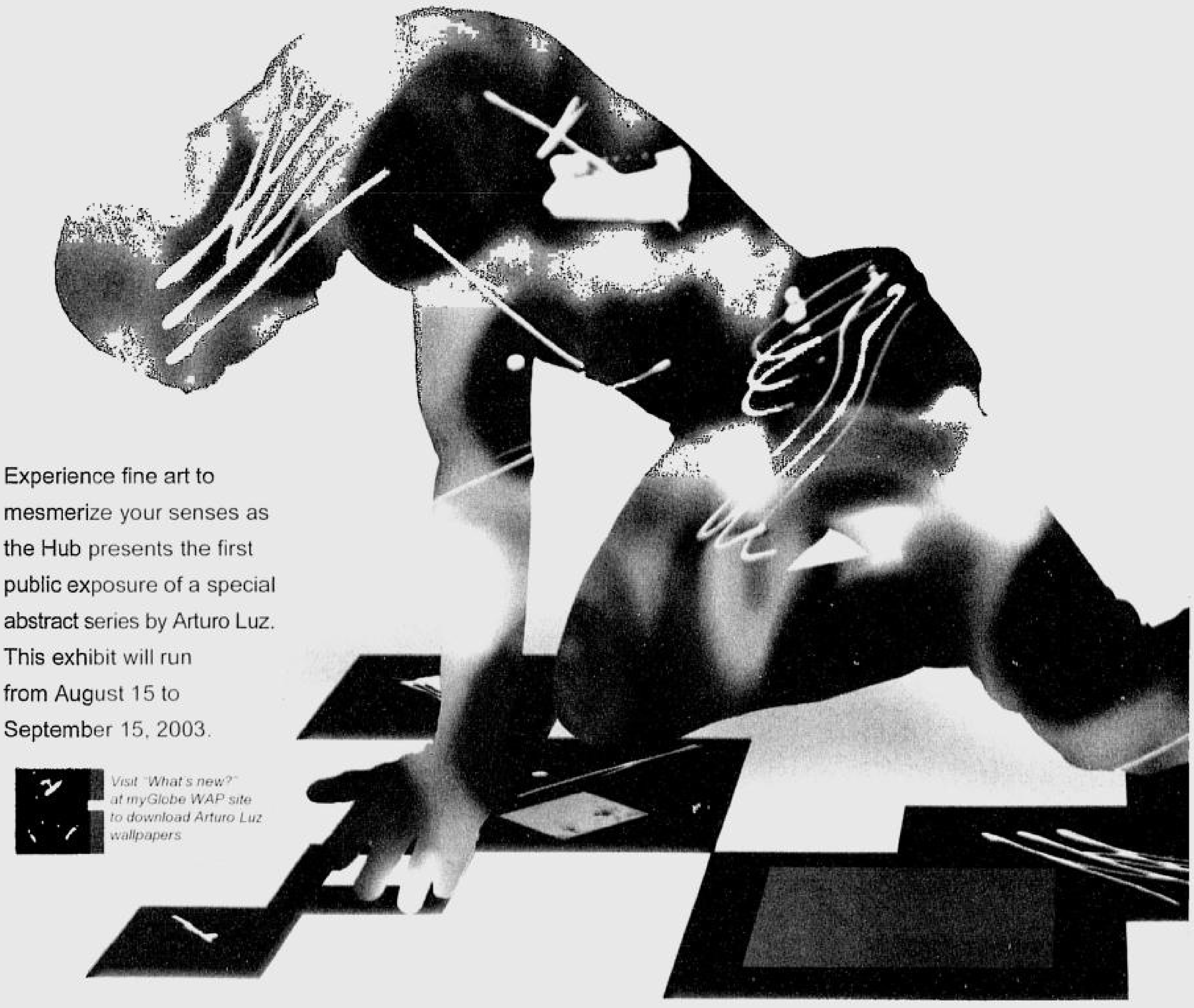
The Hub Trons unveil Arturo Luz's *'Black Collage'*.

Experience more of Arturo Luz's latest abstract collection, the Nokia 7250i and the Nokia Observation Camera by simply visiting the Hub stores in Podium, Glorietta 4 and Rockwell Power Plant. ■

(L-R) Andrew Buay, Globe Telecom Chief Operations Advisor; Tessie Luz; National Artist Arturo Luz; Ferdz dela Cruz, Globe Telecom Head- Wireless Business Group; Lizanne Uychaco, Globe Telecom Head-Wireless Sales and Distribution; Gerry Ablaza, Globe Telecom President and CEO at Artistic Indulgence: The Arturo Luz Collection unveiling at the Hub.

Experience artistic indulgence.

The latest Arturo Luz Collection at the Hub



Experience fine art to mesmerize your senses as the Hub presents the first public exposure of a special abstract series by Arturo Luz. This exhibit will run from August 15 to September 15, 2003.

Visit "What's new?" at myGlobe WAP site to download Arturo Luz wallpapers

Sensory Indulgence at the

By Globe Telecom

NOKIA Connecting People Globe Handyphone

Advt. 2nd level Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Makati • 3rd level Power Plant Mall Rockwell, Makati • 5th level The Podium, Ortigas Center

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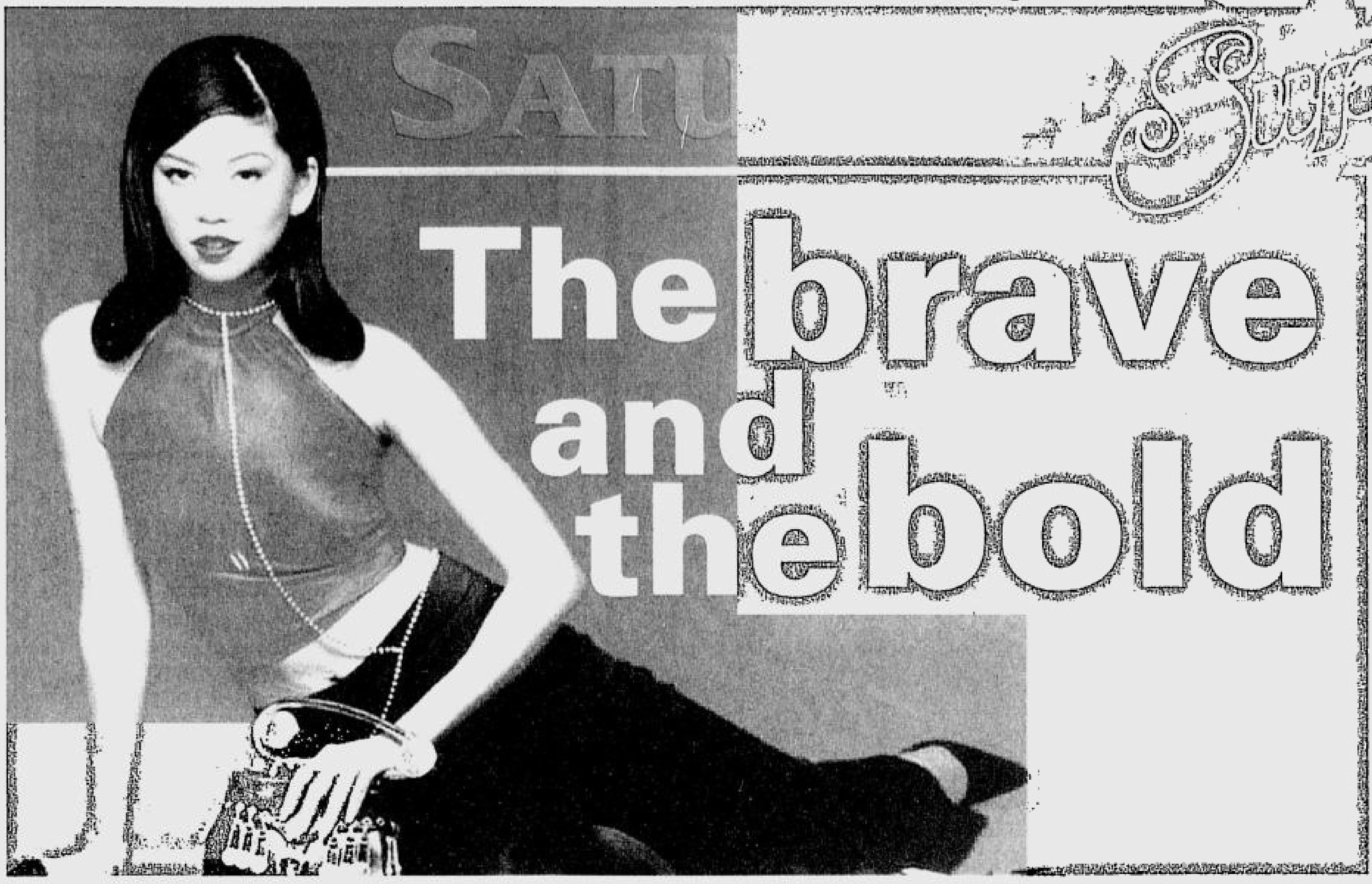


The brave and the bold

What's in a name?

More than 24 hours with Aubrey Miles
page H1-H2

Kris, Game Ka Na Ba?
page H3

'Keka' Muna
page H3

Hot new band–KabutƎhan and Sound
page G2

All male action!
page H4

By Bianca Valerio

I AM now officially a bold star. Well, not me technically, but my name.

It's one thing to have a street, a building, a shade of lipstick (Amber Valetta for Elizabeth Arden, ex.), or a song and even a dessert (Peach Melba) named somewhat after you. But to have a bold star named *exactly* after you is another story. Totally.

Bianca Valerio. What's in a name, anyway? Well first of all, it's *my* name. Second, a name can make or break you. And remember the saying: "Nothing sounds sweeter than the sound of one's name."

I never realized how much value I put on my name, until I recently saw splashed across the front pages of several tabloids, attached to photographs of a bold starlet!

Of course, I know this is commonplace in Philippine movies. Numerous bold stars have taken on new names that would place them in the mainstream of current events. Some have renamed themselves after society's elite—Claudia Zobel, Diana Zubiri—to acquire just a little more class, presumably.

What about the soft drink girls—Sarsi Emanuel, Pepsi Paloma and Coca Nicolas—to evoke "good taste"?

Or to add an "imported" vibe—Aubrey Miles, Maui Taylor.

For recall, based on news items—Trixie Trillanes, Glorietta Magdalo.

What were the chances that someone would take my whole name?

I have been a professional model and television host for a couple of years now. Just like any serious career person, I've worked very hard to make a name for myself. And just I thought I had made a mark, someone ups and beats me to the punch!

On the bright side, I might remind myself that aping is a form of flattery. But, hey, that's my father's last name, too. It is also said that one reaps the fruits of one's labor. Well, this is not the fruit that I had in mind. Then again, my parents always did tell me to reach for my dreams, to be bold and daring!

BOLD star, mirror image.

THE REAL Bianca Valerio revealed.

.. and what were the chances that I'd see mine splashed across tabloids, under the photographs of a bold starlet?

Nowadays, writing my name is a totally different experience. Whether filling up an application form at go-sees, giving out my business card or showing my portfolio, or even just ordering North Park delivery, I dread the possibility of being asked: "Are you the bold star?" Worse, of not being asked: *"Ay! S'iya yung* bold star, *o!"*

I'm rather undersized in the chest area; at least one of us has something to show! She is the girl from the province, and I am the city chick. She's got her so-called manager to back her up, I've got the whole PMAP (Professional Models Association of the Philippines).

In the tabloids, her hotline number was posted, should anyone wish to avail of "extra services." For my professional services, you can dial the PMAP hotline. You may not get a "raise" from our secretary's voice, but if you hire me for any professional modeling/hosting stint, your satisfaction is guaranteed!

It must be said, though, we have one thing in common: good taste. She sports my name, after all. We could be candidates for the next Tag Heuer Alter Ego campaign.

Truth to tell, it has always been my dream to make headlines. What do you know? Although it's only in the tabloids, it'll have to do for now.

Sex Star roll call

By Armin Adina

FRANCINE Prieto, Tricia Zobel, Elsa Enrile.

They are not members of prominent families in the country. They are bold actresses whose screen surnames wish to evoke the power of the social elite.

Francine is Seiko Film's latest discovery. The company is known for launching the careers of "classy" boldies Gretchen Barretto and Cristina Gonzales. Now, publicity materials promote Francine as worthy of following in the footsteps of Gretchen and Cristina.

A professional ramp and print-ad model who has done the beauty-pageant and model-search route, Francine is a Psychology student at a private university in Mandaluyong City. By christening her Francine Prieto, Seiko big boss Robbie Tan hopes she would reap as much recognition as the real Prietos. She used to be Ana Marie Falcon in television shows and a few movies, that did nothing for her career.

Francine Prieto could jump-start an old trend. Meaning, the viewing public should brace themselves for a Gigi Gokongwei, Tally Tan or Zsa Zsa Zobel de Ayala.

In the '80s, there were Lampel Cojuangco, Elsa Enrile and Tricia Zobel.

Hot soda

The late star-builder Dr. Rey dela Cruz gave us softdrink beauties Coca Nicolas, Pepsi Paloma and Sarsi Emmanuel. But unlike real sodas that are best served chilled, these girls proved too hot to handle. Pepsi committed suicide, Coca is reportedly preaching the verse, and Sarsi recently underwent rehabilitation for drug dependence.

Then came the street beauties: Aurora Boulevard, Brandy Ayala, even one Epifania delos Santos.

Rosanna Roces started her show biz career as Ana Maceda in her first movie "Comfort Women." She's not the only one who took a "political" surname. There was Pam Lacson, who is now Kat de Santos, embroiled in a word-war over the name against Viva Hot Babe Katya Santos.

And who doesn't know Ynez Veneracion? The actress, whose name has been spun off action star Ian Venercion's, is probably the most successful among those who placed their bets on successful actors' names. Her contemporaries included Ramona Revilla and Ida Manzano. There are many others who came and went quietly—Agatha Muhlach, Bongga Revilla ...

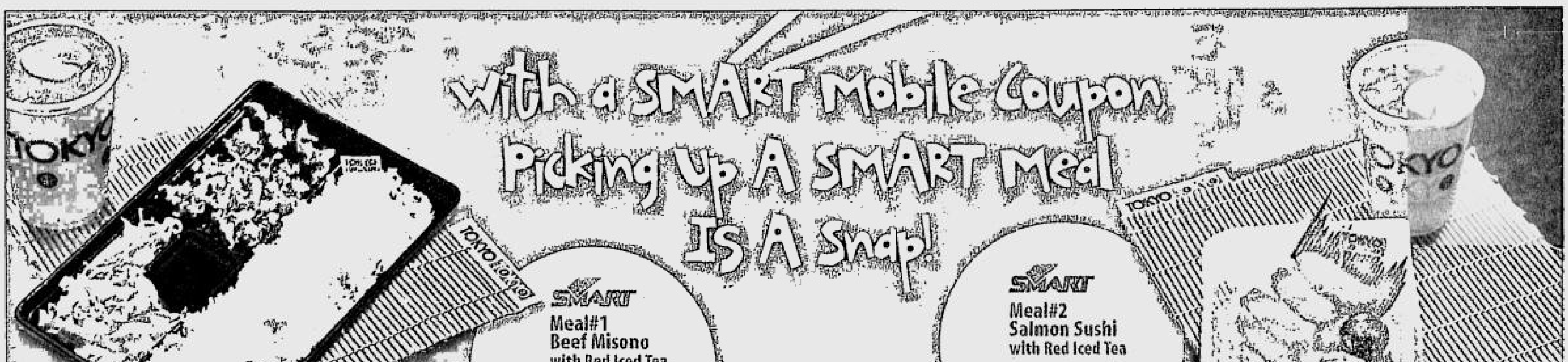
Former boldie Katrina Paula is exploting the Oakwood mutiny. After giving up stripping, supposedly to spare her children from humiliation, she is now managing the careers of "rebel beauties" Trixie Trillanes, Glorietta Magdalo and Angela Rebella.

You can change yours, too!

CHOOSE from two ways to derive the name that will launch you to porn stardom.

Take your first pet's name and your mother's maiden name.

If that doesn't sound good to you, take your first pet's name and the name of the street you grew up on.



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SMART Simply Amazing!

THE BAND. Robby Mananquil on lead guitar, Gianco Cui on vocals and rhythm guitar, Pepo Goau on bass, Leo Maralit on percussions and Francis Reynoso on drums.

RUDY ESPERAS

KabutEhan and Friends

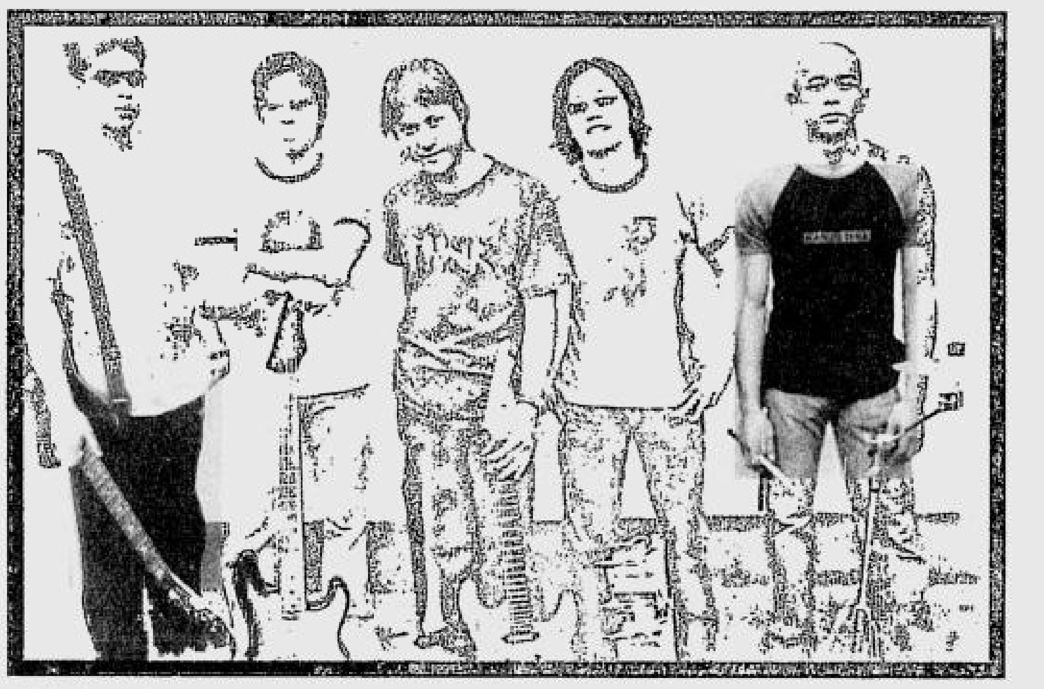
By Ovvian Castrillo
Photos by Tim Yap

"'KABUTE' means mushroom," I am told by Mario Lewis, manager of Kabutehan and Friends. Like the fungus this hot new band is named after, Kabutehan just sort of popped up from nowhere.

It's a good thing, too. In this day and age when practically everything is manufactured, including pop stars, their bodies and the electronically altered sounds they make, it's refreshing to see real people and hear authentic music, like the music of Kabutehan.

The band is composed of Gianco Cui on vocals and rhythm guitar, Leo Maralit on percussions, Francis Reynoso on drums, Robby Mananquil on lead guitar, and Pepo Goau on bass. Each member, coming from a different background and influence ranging from acid jazz to heavy metal, rock and ska, brings with him an element for infusion.

They do covers of bands like Radiohead and Sublime. In some of these covers, they improvise with tempos and beats, sometimes fusing rock and tribal or pop and bossa nova. There is always a new take on dated songs, and this seems to make the music all their own.



A FEW good music men. Catch them Tuesdays at Ebisu.

LEAD vocalist Gianco Cui.

Personal expression

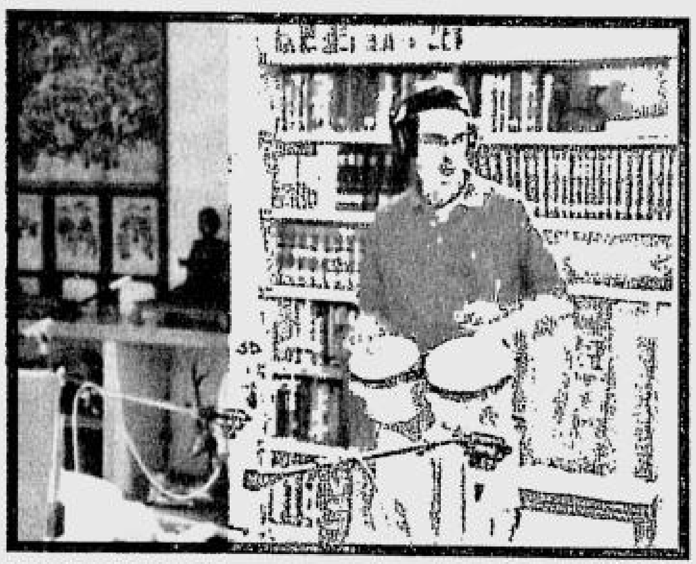
Even more exciting are their original tracks. "Wasting Away," for instance, has a distinct, recognizable melody and beat, and is deep in its honesty and soul. Gianco Cui's voice smacks of Robbie Willams, Lenny Kravits and Eddie Vedder together. It is at once raw and crude, polished and precise.

The band members say their music is personal and, in fact, is their chosen medium of expression. That's not where it stops. These guys have an altruistic side, too. "The band's vision is to come up with an alternative sound," Pepo Goau says. He recounts the Manila sound era when there was "something" distinctly Filipino about the music. "Our priority is not to impose on people, however. Our main priority is to come up with something so we can contribute to the culture . . . and to have fun."

Kabutehan is most definitely a positive addition to the local scene. Of course it helps that everyone in the band is model-fit and looks good enough to be in a boy band that, well, you know the type.

Real-life model and lead guitarist Robby Mananquil says: "It's different when you see a young band with real love for the music . . . as compared to a commercial band doing it for the money."

(Catch Kabutehan and Friends at Ebisu, Jupiter St. Makati City, every Tuesday night.)



MUSIC LIBRARY. The author listens to his mix.

Catch Sound

By David Esteban

THIS is a storm of information, the shattering of Pandora's box. New technologies open newer possibilities, limited only by what we cannot conceive.

Sound is something new, yet familiar. The band's name connotes an open mind, sophistication, ambition. The music is warm and inviting. An endless list of influences ranges from Aphex Twin to Corduroy, from the Beatles to John Coltrane, Jamiroquai to Jazzanova, all of which find their way into the ingenious mix. Though guided by a cool head for business, the work is as fevered and passionate as that of a band enjoying full creative control: practical, but radical. Independent, yet pop.

A wholly independent work, "bossaManila," our record, is a chronicle of Manila life. It is rife with sentiment, hope, and sorrow. Musically, the groove is omnipresent, technically meticulous, but raw.

It is a world view from a Filipino perspective, aiming for global standards in a localized market, where "indie" is a viable alternative, not a genre.

(Catch Sound all Mondays of September at Dish in Power Plant with Wendel Garcia.)

Something new yet familiar, warm and inviting, technically meticulous but raw

SOUND loaded at Dish, Mondays of September.

INDIE sound, local feel.

Spliced, diced, and bastardized

Since everything has been done once, even twice, in the past, mining the archives, or retreading, is a valid way to keep pop culture fresh

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

THE DAWN of yawn began in 1995 when we, kids of the new census, were ruffled by the mainstream ka-ching of a band called Hootie & the Blowfish and their goodytwoshoes lyrics:

Sometimes you're crazy
And you wonder why
I'm such a baby
'Cause the dolphins make me cry
— **"Only Wanna Be With You"**

Boo-freakin'-hoo. Edgeless, tame, and overwhelmingly normal, Hootie ushered in a flurry of equally middle-of-the-road distractions like Sandra Bullock, Tiger Woods, and 7th Heaven, a show untrumped when it comes to prudish and high-handed preaching. On the corporate musical front, we have Moby, Creed, and Will Smith. If you could hear a pair of Dockers khakis sing, it would certainly sound like "Get Jiggy With It." What makes these non-spectacles so cringe-inducing is not the fact that they convey a nice positive message to the world, but that they look smug, poised, and far-from-human when they do so. When things become too square to bear, the gutsiest novelties bring on the much-needed inspiration.

Bastard pop

There I was, pissing my name in the snow outside The Embassy, downtown Calgary's grittiest club, when I heard the opening drum track of "Addictive" by Truth Hurts. That song was blowing up on hip-hop radio at the time, so after zipping up my camos, I bumrushed my way back and let the Bhangra bassline pull me in. It seemed like people suddenly came out of the woodwork because the floor had turned into a swirling mass of 25-and-under party thugs and sweaty honeys. The vibe was mad contagious to say the least. My buds and I were having a sweet time when the DJ snuck in the vocals from Robbie Williams' "Feel" and layered them on top of the "Addictive" hook. Holy crap!

I waited for empty Molson bottles to take off and knock the DJ straight on the noggin. Instead of hurling a shit storm, however, the crowd gave the avant-garde remix an explosive thumbs up by tearing it up even harder. Apart from my recent discovery, Free's "Alright Now," that cross-bred sound was the sexiest thing to hit my ears in a long while. "This is the future," I thought, "and it's nothing like The Jetsons!"

The musical collage I heard answers to the name "mash-up" or "bootleg." Like wearing a traditional toggle coat with your Roots sweat pants, this new way of constructing beats is unexpected. It blurs the line where a remix ends and a completely new song begins. And it goes a little something like this: a bored bedroom DJ digs around for vocals he can splice and stacks that on top of another song's chorus or beats using cheap remixing software. He then unleashes his Frankentrack to music-hungry humans through the Internet. When done just right, the mash-up sounds as if God engineered it—seamless, original, and free.

Sound of the underground

It can get really boring with just one vibe and Norman Cook, a.k.a. Fatboy Slim, knew this only too well. His 1997 monster jam, "Rockafella Skank" crossed the line from cool to fromage when the whole world sampled it for everything, from TV ads to Freddie Prinze Jr. movies. A couple of years later, he radically reassembled his summer smash by splicing and dicing The Rolling Stones anthem, "Satisfaction" onto the now-ubiquitous surf-style beats. The result was dubbed "Satisfaction Skank," an even catchier track that shook the underground club movement in 1999.

Any kind of crossover—racial, ethnic, or generational—is essential to pop music. Even Britney is fair game. A bunch of amateur DJs who go by the name Dsico (not Disco) raped "I'm a Slave 4 U," her recent slithery cheesefest. They spread her waif-like voice on top of a familiar '70s track, the unlikely "Good Times" by Chic. In one brilliant lunge, the novelty single "Goodtime Girl" resurrected a nearly forgotten disco classic and gave Ms Spears crucial alternative cred.

Far, far away from the Billboard Hot 100, anonymous Internet bootleggers have also bastardized Justin Timberlake. Fusing Timbo's "Rock Your Body" with his idol Jacko's "Don't Stop Till You Get Enough," the freeform mash-up "Don't Stop Till You Rock Your Body" has become my latest guilty pleasure from Kazaa.

... and around again

Not all inspiration is culled underground. When Dannii Minogue performed her UK semi-hit "Don't Wanna Lose This Feeling" on Top of the Pops, she cleverly customized it by stealing the drum track from Madonna's "Into the Groove." The Material Almost-Has-Been apparently heard "Don't Wanna Lose This Groove" and commissioned her own legal bootleg. With the trimmed-down Missy Elliott as her sidekick, she sampled herself and remixed her glorious past ("Into the Groove") with her floundering present ("Hollywood"). Now the future teeters precariously on "Into the Hollywood Groove," the mashed-up soundtrack of her Gap ad.

Retreading: the future?

Mash-ups and bootlegs, like bedheads and vintage denim, are sexy because of their anti-establishment appeal. Once a controversial practice becomes accepted, however, the sub-genre loses its cool quotient. For example, I never saw newsboy caps the same way after 'NSync wore them in their "Girlfriend" video. It's a bummer that mash-ups will most likely go down the same blaze of glory.

Since everything has been done once, even twice, in the past, mining the archives, or retreading, is a valid way to keep pop culture fresh. In fact, mainstream recording labels have recently been bootlegging themselves. I heard the remix for Ashanti's "Rock Wit U (Aww Baby)" on local hip-hop and R&B radio and she ponied it up with a sample of Michael Jackson's "Rock With You." It was slick, no doubt, but is this a minor trend or a major emergency?

Whether you splice, dice, and bastardize in an underground laboratory or in a stiff commercial environment, I'm convinced more upstarts will continue pimping on in the pursuit of musical pleasure. After all, the ordinary could become exceptional when you put them in new and very different contexts.

Road Tripping to the Pacific's Edge

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

A FEW minutes before a seven-hour road trip up to the northern town of Baler, in Aurora province last weekend, my fellow seasoned road-trippers were airing out their concerns about travelling, so far and for so long. It was not unlike a checklist for the Department of Immigration, when they asked me:

a. Are you scared about this sudden freak rainstorm flooding the highways and roads leading north? No problem. We'll drive up slowly.

b. Are you worried about the real threat of NPA attacks while deep in the remote areas of the Sierra Madre mountain range? No worries! None of us look like foreigners anyway.

c. Are you bothered by the possibility of getting lost and ending up in the middle of nowhere, because of a wrong turn in one of the many forked paths on the way to our intended destination? Again, no problem, we had sleeping bags, junk food and most importantly, a CD player with enough Jack Johnson songs to keep us sane.

d. Finally, are you okay with the fact that we will have absolutely no cell phone signal for the next three days? Uh oh. Now that was a really scary thought for me.

Yet the call of the wild, the lust for adventure and the need to escape the concrete jungle in exchange for pure shores won over my innate fear of being cut-off from the connected world. I buckled my safety belt, cued in the track, "Pure Shores" from "The Beach" soundtrack just for effect and off we were on the road to Baler.

Wired Ride

There is something just immensely enjoyable about the conversations during a long road trip out of the city as compared to short rides to gimmick places in the Metro. I believe it's a combination of a lot of factors that contribute to raw, honest, comfortable and comical conversation. It could be the fact that at the onset, everyone's internal system is loaded up with a whole range of caffeine fixes and energy boosters from coffee and Pepsi X to Gatorade and guarana just to keep our eyes wide open during the trip. In such wired states, everyone latches on to every passing comment and reacts freely and spontaneously, creating a colorful pastiche of topics that could prove we were all afflicted with Attention Deficit Disorder like the fish Dory in "Finding Nemo."

I also think it has something to do with everyone being dressed down to their basic, comfiest mode of T-shirts, tank tops, cargo shorts and worn-out sandals. When you're stripped down to your coziest, you just can't help but also be at your most comfortable self. Guys are so much more relaxed in their untucked, beltless *porma* and CK One-bereft selves; girls glow brighter with their clean, makeupless faces highlighted only by passing cars' headlights.

Then there is the fact that the driver's personal CD selections can only last for too long, and as such, everybody ends up flipping through their own CD cases to pick out songs to share selflessly. And so, we had a diverse range of road tunes ranging from Hed Kandi, The Sundays, Kylie Minogue, Barbie's Cradle, Chicane, Pinikpikan, and even some "retro" classic tracks like "The Gin Blossoms'" "Hey Jealousy" and "The Divynils'" and "I Touch Myself." Of course, with cued in music comes the cued in memories... fragments of stories of past loves, ex-obsessions and horrible fashion phases that only tint deeper dimensions to each one's persona with each passing bathroom stop.

Yet I believe that the best discoveries about these road trips are the collective, united fascination for our beautiful country, especially once you've exited traffic-congested Manila and driven past concrete buildings and into wide green fields, kaleidoscopic flowers and robust trees. Just as we entered the foot of the Sierra Madre mountains, we glimpsed the first rays of sunlight peeking through gaps in the clouds and reflecting-off the waters of rushing rivers. Driving slowly through curved paths edged with majestic ferns, my friend played the song "Angel" of Jimi Hendrix that starts off with the line, *"Angel came down from heaven yesterday..."* I suddenly had one of those "American Beauty" moments, you know the feeling, when everything is just so beautiful that I thought my heart was about to burst.

WOW Baler

Three hours through the mountains and we finally reached our isolated destination, beautiful, beautiful Baler. I sounded like a broken record for a D.O.T. ad campaign, because all I kept saying was, "Wow." We stopped at Sabang beach. Imagine a long strip of clean, unravaged shoreline embraced by cloud-covered mountains. Jagged islands were shadows in the horizon of a calm blue sea. Dragonflies gliding about over blooming purple flowers only breathed more life into the vision. It's no wonder that Baler was the last pocket of resistance of the Spanish forces in the Philippines during the Revolutionary days, clocking in a record year of opposition between June 27, 1898 to June 2, 1899. Hell, if I were one of the Spanish soldiers then, I'd also fight to my last tooth and rotting nail to keep this little corner of the Pacific!

Feeling like Lonely Planeteers, we explored the other unspoilt, idyllic secrets of Baler. We drove languidly to another cove called "Charlie's Point," otherwise known as the spot where they filmed the surfing scene for the Francis Ford Coppola classic, "Apocalypse Now." Another short drive-away took us to a lush mangrove beach, where we walked through spaces between the long-stemmed plant life, and marveled at the thriving population of hermit crabs, mud skippers and spindle stars speckling unmarked paths to a jagged rock jutting out to the ocean. To call it paradise would be improper, for "paradise" connotes unreachability and a sneaky, disturbing feeling of being banished soon. No, I would call it a dream, a beautiful, surreal dream we were suddenly immersed in, feeling as if we were sitting at the edge of a forgotten world.

I Came, I Saw, I Conquered

Driving through the narrow roads of the quaint little town of Baler was also such a pleasant experience, being greeted by the friendly locals who could spot Manileños from a mile away. We stopped at the town's center where colorful stalls were out in full force.

A row of small *bahay kubos* were decorated with rainbow-colored hats and *banigs*, accented with bright-yellow coconut clusters hanging from the wooden props. With only P20, I was able to savour a full fare of *isaw*, ube ice cream on bread, "cotton candy" sprinkled with powdered milk, all downed with pineapple and *sago pampalamig*. I saw a man reading a newspaper that was two days old, because they were so isolated that news of the outside world takes more than a fortnight to reach their little community. I thought that the world could have changed drastically within those two days but no one in this happy town of simple pleasures like two-peso *isaw* could have given a damn.

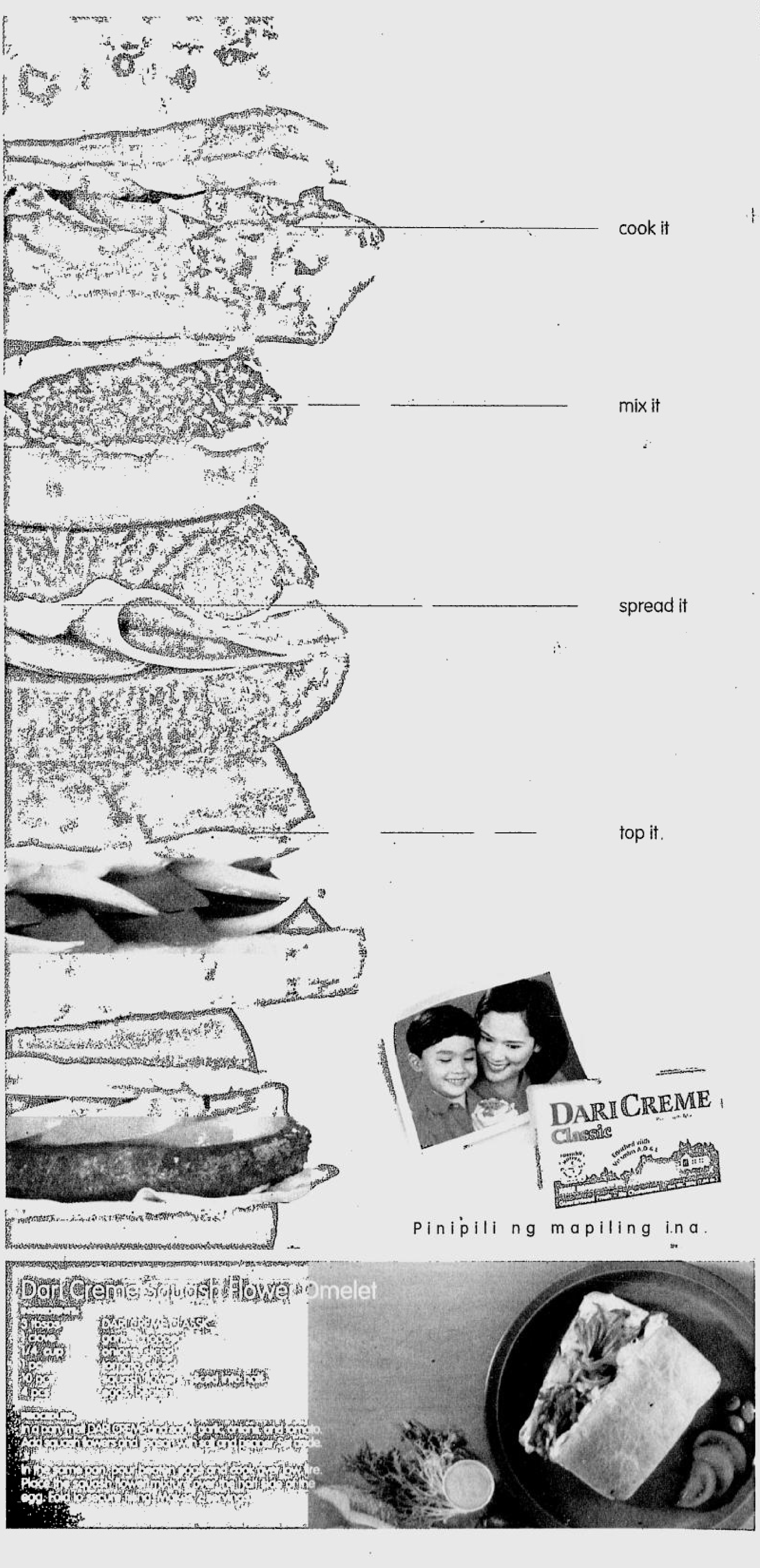
Pacific Sunset

As the sky became tinged with the orange sun of the passing day, our little trekking troop found our way back to Sabang beach, and appropriated our personal little spots with nothing but ice cold beer in our hands and eyes wide awake with a natural high. High from the quiet buzz of circling dragonflies and not the bleeping text messages on our cell phones. High from the soothing sound of the breaking waves and not the grating boy band voices over the radiowaves. High from the sight of children blissfully playing in the shallow water of the Earth's ocean and not the floodwaters off of Jupiter street. Funny how these moments of isolation actually make you feel more connected with the world.

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com

OUR favorite stall.

A WALK through mangroves.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Pinipili ng mapiling ina.
Dari Creme Squash Flower Omelet

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Intensity G KADAYAWAN

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August 23	11:00 AM	**Intensity G Motorcade**
		Intensity G Kadayawan with the Stars
	5:00 PM	Basketball Tournament at RMC Gym
	8:00 PM	Party at Summit Bar, Royal Mandaya Hotel
	9:00 PM	**Street party at Rizal Park**
	9:00 PM	**Intensity G Bar Raids at Bluepost Bar & Billiards, 7th Avenue Bar, Page 9 Bar and Autoshop Bar**
	9:30PM	**Intensity G Acoustic Night at Pasag Grill, Royal Mandaya Hotel**

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3354, Series of 2003
*2/F Victoria Plaza and 3/F SM City

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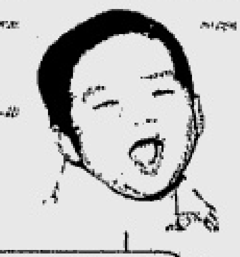
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOLD, with class

More than 24 HOURS with Aubrey Miles

Tim Yap



10:24 a.m. SINGAPORE Airlines' morning flight nap. "Only two hours of sleep—came from taping."

I SPENT three days and two nights with Aubrey Miles, non-stop, in Singapore. Beat that.

Aubrey at first glance had struck me as being shy. I had met her backstage at the Bench underwear show (which I don't know why I was a part of) in Cebu last year. Back then, people were whispering to me that she would be, indeed, the next big thing.

Fast forward to the airport as we were about to board the plane to Singapore, where ABS-CBN and Sony chose to send her to interview Latin heartthrob Ricky Martin. "When they told me about it, I couldn't believe it. Why me, of all people?" she humbly admitted later.

Aubrey seemed oblivious to all the stares that followed her and her crew, which was busy taping her every move. People brave enough would approach her and ask for an autograph, maybe pose for some pictures, and she was very game. For someone who had had less than two hours of sleep, she was in a very good mood, hamming it up for the cameras as she boarded the plane.

A few hours back, she had just finished taping "The Sarsi Emmanuel Story," an episode for the teledrama "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" where 23 of the 26 sequences had the actress in tear-jerking scenes enough to flood España. Clad in a red quilted jacket and with matching Louis Vuitton luggage, she looked extremely fresh and relaxed.

It was in Singapore that we bonded. Armed with a few more hours of sleep on the plane, we were ready to go. We stayed at the Marriott Singapore (which seemed so quiet — the Marriott Indonesia having just been bombed a few days back). From there, we hopped over to the Four Seasons Hotel where Aubrey was to enter the lion's den. You see, Aubrey the celebrity is used to being interviewed, not the other way around.

That she was doing the interview for all the showbiz and personality-oriented Channel 2 shows added to the pressure on her. But she made it to the finish line with flying colors, even managing to win the hearts of Ricky and his snobby entourage.

MORE/ H2

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Triband Transceiver for Global Roaming support, built-in stereo FM radio, full color images, polyphonic tones, pc connectivity.

August 27, 2003
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New Zealand Radiata Wood in light golden oak finish with Perfecta mattress.
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Pool with 0.124Kwh filter pump (120 volt) (488cm) square cloth, pool cover, ladder and maintenance kit.

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Roundtrip ticket via SingaporeAirlines 3D/2N hotel accommodation at Bali Sani Pandama Hotel, with free breakfast, room based on twin sharing, 1/2 day tour. Travel anytime between Sept. 1, 2003-Feb. 29, 2004. Except on Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2003, Dec. 15, 2003-Jan. 7, 2004 and Jan. 19-25, 2004.

August 31, 2003
Giant Yukon Mountain Bike, Frame: aluminum, Fork: XC 60 SR Suntour, H-bar: Aluminum Saddle: Giant, Pedal: Aluminum, Rim: Aluminum, Spokes: Stainless.

September 1, 2003
WWT 24H 10.5kg fully automatic washer, auto heating-hot wash function, 1-2 1-2 washing system, special cycle, stainless steel tub, east touch programming pad, intelligent soak, full function dispenser, tempered glass lid, side handles and adjustable lids.

September 2, 2003
Canon Power Shot A300,
3.2 megapixels, 5x digital zoom, 5-point AIAF, built-in mic and speakers, 3-mins. movie recording, powered by DIGIC processor, photo effect mode, direct photo print mode, sound annotation capability.

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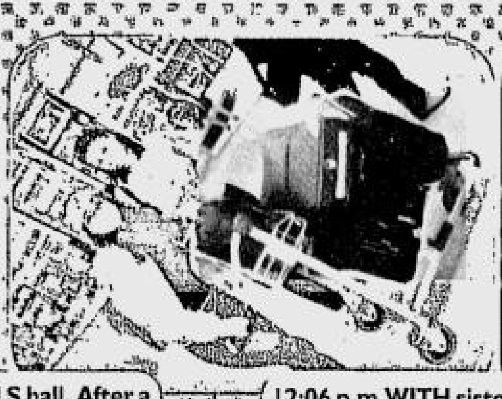
ALABANG [illegible] MAKATI [illegible]

11:47 a.m. ARRIVALS hall. After a few autographs and pictures, Aubrey heads towards baggage claim.


12:06 p.m. WITH sister Ange Sandel and their family's bags.

12:36 p.m. TAXI cab in the Lion City. "Singapore, here I come!"

1:00 p.m. "I WANNA shop! But no more time—gotta head over to meet Ricky Martin!"

1:08 p.m. CHECK in at the Marriott. Here with sis Ange and Domi Espejo, who served as her cameraman.

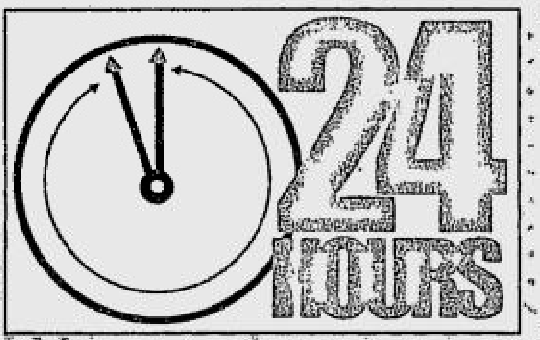
1:57 p.m. ROOM 2302, with Mommy Miles, who's helping her fix up before her big "date." The two are very closely bonded.

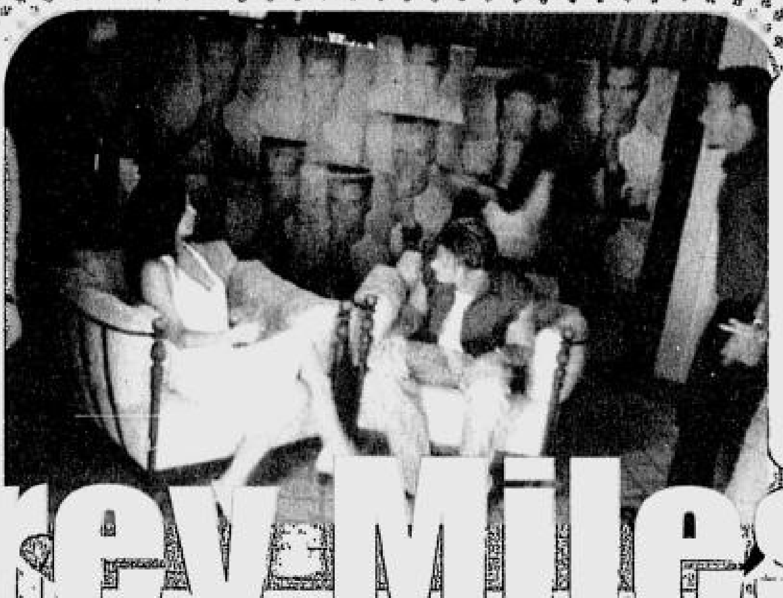
1:57 p.m. LAST minute touches by Frankie Melendez, her trusted make up artist.

2:00 p.m. AT the elevator of the Four Seasons Hotel, Aubrey reviews her script.

2:15 p.m. AN impromptu conversation with Ricky Lo before the interview.

More than 24 HOURS with rey Miles




3:03 p.m. THE Moment. Aubrey charms Ricky Martin. They discuss sexuality and sensuality.

From page H1

"She's so pretty," the director whispered to Sony PR Roslyn Reyes while our Ms Miles was conducting her little chitchat with Mr. Big Bonbon.

But of course we already knew that. What I discovered after spending more time with her — through cab, bar, concert and club hopping to shopping and food tripping — was that she's extremely real.

It's somewhat of a cliché to describe a show biz personality that way — but that's how I saw her.

"Malalim, dahil totoo siya (Deep, because she is real) as a person," was how her personal makeup artist, Frankie Melendez, put it. She moves without the airhead movie star aura, yet projects a very attractive energy — she can charm her way into anything.

After the Ricky Martin concert, we went backstage where not even the "no entry" signs could stop us. The burliest bouncer turned to jelly at just a hint of Aubrey's smile.

And her popularity extends to the Lion City, where she topbills a commercial for DBS Bank in which she plays a girl about to get married. (The commercial gets a lot of airtime — she got the job through Diva Models, one of the top agencies in Singapore which flew her in to do the shoot).

While clubbing, one guy approached her and asked, "Can I touch you? You're so beautiful." Another girl offered her a commercial modeling job (the fourth one to ask her that day alone).

And she's single. While she admits to entertaining suitors (she has broken up with boyfriend Jon Hall), Troy Montero ("He's so nice and patient.") and Luis Manzano (who kept calling her in Singapore) are in the lead.

But what impressed me most about her is her love for her family. She'd leave the group to join her mother, who'd be waiting for her at the hotel. While in the cab, she worried about her sister, like any doting older sibling would.

In fact, this trip doubled as her gift to her family — their little vacation-slash-bonding moment since she's up to here in work when she's in Manila.

Beat that.

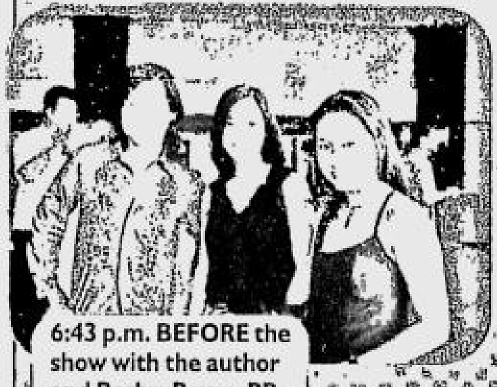
4:27 p.m. FIRST meal of the day at Marriott café. "I'm tired, but still want to go shopping."

5:15 p.m. QUICK nap—have to catch up on lost sleep. Still have a long day to go.

9:16 p.m. SISTAH bonding. Gucci, Takashimaya, etc... The Orchard Road invasion.

6:22 p.m. THE following day. After a photo shoot for a local show biz magazine at The Fullerton, she is all set to watch Ricky Martin live at Kallang Theater.

6:25 p.m. CAB ride with sis Ange while talking to Lucky Manzano. *"Wag ka na magtampo,"* she tells him.

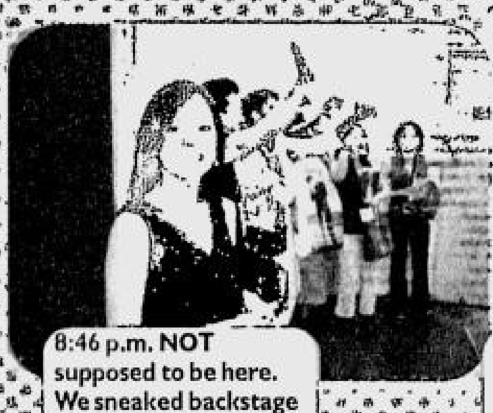

6:43 p.m. BEFORE the show with the author and Roslyn Reyes, PR of Sony Music.

6:43 p.m. "The guys linked to me—it's all true. But it's hard for me to give time. They usually visit me in the studio."

6:46 p.m. UP, up and away. Aubrey turns heads whether in Manila or in Singapore.

8:36 p.m. LA Vida Loca. Dancing to Ricky Martin's launch of his latest album, "Almas Del Silencio."

8:45 p.m. NO holds barred. She uses her charm to enter. No guards can resist.

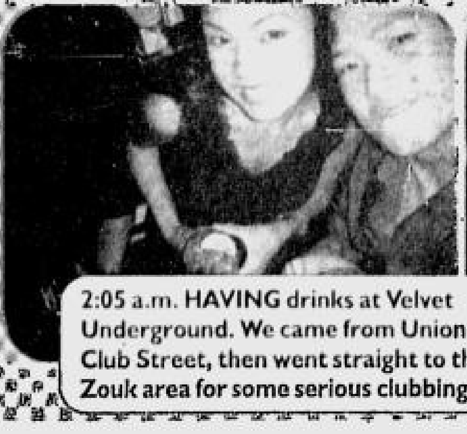

8:46 p.m. NOT supposed to be here. We sneaked backstage despite heavy security.

Ricky Martin
8:50 p.m. "I can smell Ricky!" It's Aubrey's turn to be celebrity stalker. Okay, pretend to be Ricky Martin's girlfriend.

12:19 a.m. WAITING for me to get ready, Aubrey texts away—to whom? I didn't ask.

12:21 a.m. QUICK change before a night of heavy partying.

12:37 a.m. PINAY waitress in Singapore recognizes her. They talk about life in Manila.


2:05 a.m. HAVING drinks at Velvet Underground. We came from Union on Club Street, then went straight to the Zouk area for some serious clubbing.

2:11 a.m. WITH Scho Parpan-Richardson, who set up Richard and Lucy. "Find me a date, too!"

2:51 a.m. "I THINK you'll do well here," the fourth agent who approached her.

4:10 a.m. FELL asleep in the cab before reaching the hotel.

10 a.m. THE next day. The minute we wake up, we shop. She's really my friend.

4:46 a.m. FLASHBACK last night. After intense bar and club hopping, time to go to bed... Zzzzzzzz....

GOSH! Big hair and hearts day

"AND now I'm fallin', fallin' fast again . . . and again . . . and again

MANO PO, KRIS. Her present day kabuki and geisha look

Game ka na ba?

SWAK!

by Lex

The Aquino legacy does not end with Ninoy; there's still Kris!

MY greatest fear is to be forgotten.

I'd hate to look back on my life and wonder, "What was that all for?"

As a nationalist, my wish is to go down in a blaze of glory, leaving a legacy that made a big difference in people's lives.

In recent history, I believe Ninoy Aquino did exactly that. The man understood that the power was with the people and that his gift of gab was his greatest weapon. And so he moved people into action with the power of his conviction.

It is a privilege to be the countryman of someone who, by choosing martyrdom, showed that "The Filipino is worth dying for."

Unfortunately, the Aquino legacy does not end with Ninoy. There's still Kris!

And she is everywhere—blockbuster movies, multiple TV shows, newspaper columns, glossy magazines, giant billboards, TV and print ads.

You blink and she's there. Day in and day out, it is Kris that people have on their mind, not Ninoy.

Even Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta has to labor for as much airtime, and has yet to succeed. The only time she was noticed was when she became the "Dancing Queen" after "succeeding" in supressing the Jose Velarde envelope. I'm sure Ninoy was rolling around in his grave over that incident!

How could they?

When I look at Ninoy's life I am hopeful. When I look at Kris' life I am confused. How could they be related?

It's not only that she went against her family by having relations with Philip Salvador, a married man decades older. And neither is it just that she is seeing another older, married actor, Joey Marquez.

What gets my goat is that it's inappropriate, to put it mildly, to broadcast every sordid detail of one's love life on national TV, especially with partners that are less than ideal. I think Kris should have the wisdom—okay, just make that decency—to discern which events in her life should be used as "material" for her shows, and which are better left unsaid. Reading private letters of apology to your mom or professing undying love, you-and-me-against-the-world style, may be great for ratings but disastrous for the family name.

The fact that every single Pinoy, especially in the provinces, is a TV addict, makes Kris phenomenally more influential than Ninoy ever was, even in his prime. She wields so much power, the masses who watch her shows avidly buy everything she endorses. Her high-pitched voice and *colegiala* English is not exactly reminiscent of her father's oratory prowess, but her hordes of fans prove it is infinitely more effective.

Whether she likes it or not, the torch has been passed. The family legacy is in her hands. Will she do as her father did, and stand up against all odds to become an instrument of change? Or will she choose the path of least resistance, continue to sell products, improve the ratings, and keep broadcasting details of her questionable relationships?

For all our sakes I hope that Ninoy's youngest daughter will prove that she inherited some of her father's wisdom.

So Kris, what's your final answer? *Game ka na ba?*

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)

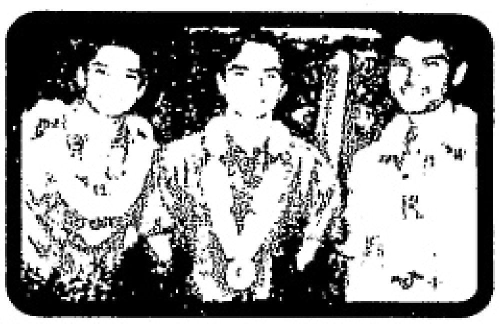
'Keka' muna!

Because it asks the audience to root for the bad guy, Quark Henares' latest work could very well be the first of its kind

By Ovvian Castrillo

KATYA Santos and male lead Wendell Ramos at the CineManila premiere of Keka.

QUARK Henares. Living a dream.


THE FRAT boys. Luis Alandy, TJ Trinidad and Tristan Enriquez.

I LOOKED forward to meeting Quark Henares for the simple reason that he is quite literally living my dream life—writing and directing movies. I was also looking forward to seeing his work, knowing that as a filmmaker, he has been influenced by the same indie films that I enjoy watching. So, off I went to see "Keka," not quite knowing what to expect, but sure that it would be "different."

It most certainly was.

"Keka," Henares' latest, is not your ordinary flick. Although its leads are sexy stars Katya Santos and Wendell Ramos, "Keka" has no steamy sex scenes. But it does not fall short on entertainment value.

The direction is inventive, the film quality is good, and the script is funny in both Pinoy and film noire contexts. Also, the music is upbeat and young, and the feel is very real. The movie is a slasher flick taken from the slasher's viewpoint.

It challenges the viewer to think out of the ordinary, to accept that a movie does not have to be linear, and that the *kontrabida* needs love, too.

The movie is very character-driven, and since the characters are extreme types, it is a hilarious ride.

The story does not conform to one particular genre, making it difficult to describe. Direk Quark lends me a hand: "Action, thriller, comedy. But more than these, it is a love story, about this girl who loses her boyfriend in a frat war. She goes after killers. The policeman on her trail falls in love with her."

Well-written, the movie takes potshots at pop culture—soap operas, movie gossip shows, child actors. Quark's humor is all over the place, sometimes subtle, at times glaring. The viewer who has a keen ear for his language, immediately sees that he does not skip a beat.

He said he thought up this movie way back in high school. "I wondered about a slasher. I wondered about a slasher film, through the eyes of the slasher. The challenge was how to identify with this person."

Because "Keka" asks the audience to root for the bad guy, it could very well be the first of its kind.

That was why it was very important to find the right female lead. "I wanted someone adorable, someone people can fall in love with."

Katya Santos did fit the bill.

Quark says: "She is just the most 'game' person, one of the best people I have worked with."

He has almost as much to say about the others in the cast and crew. "There was real camaraderie. It was a great experience. I had never been so happy working on a film."

Globe basks in the After glow

The creme de la creme of the Metro's glitzy party scene glam up Globe's Glow party series.

Pulsating psychedelia, hi-tech, hypnotic beats, free drinks and the awesome company of Metro Manila's best, brightest and most beautiful were the hallmarks of Globe Plan subscribers' Glow party series, an exclusive treat for its G-Plan subscribers at five of Makati's chic and saucy stomping grounds: Dreambar, Ebisu, Temple, Absinth and Restaurant 12.

Globe's Glow party series treated Metro Manila's trendiest G-Plan subscribers to free drinks, bar chow discounts, as well the privilege of being the first to have a glimpse of Globe G-Plans' most recent innovation, the **G-Plan opti-SIM**, the world's most powerful SIM enabling the subscriber to do more of the things they want.

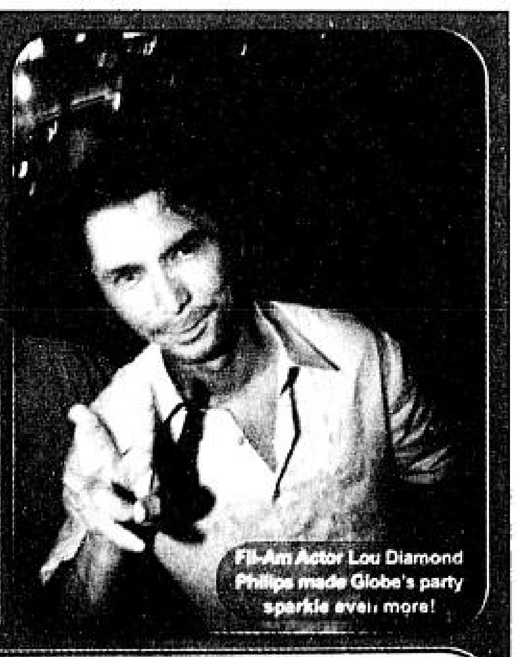
The Glow parties presented a picture of the exciting and enviable life of a G-Plan subscriber. Even Hollywood stars Tia Carrere and Lou Diamond Philips just had to join cosmo *Manille's* most radiant and ravishing at Dreambar to party with Globe!

Also seen tripping the light fantastic at the party exclusive for Globe subscribers at Dreambar and then Ebisu were **Mon and Tweetie Gonzales**, **Teddy and Janine Dario**, **Romina Urra-Gonzales**, MTV's VJ **Patty Laurel** and **Georgette Tengco**, actor/director **Eric Quizon**, PBA hotshots composed of **Bobong Velez**, **Norman Black**, **Chino Trinidad**, **Joaqui Trillo**, cager **Jeffrey Cariaso**, siblings **Louie and Jon Urrutia**, professional party animal **Tim Yap**, the head turner **Rachel Soriano**, fashion designers **Tonichi Nocom**, **Randy Ortiz** and **Vic Barba**. Even more gorgeous gadabouts turned out the next weekend to party with Globe at Temple, Absinth and Restaurant 12. Media magnets sighted at the exclusive party for Globe G-Plan subscribers were, **Celine Lopez**, **GP Reyes**, **Phillip Cruz**, **Tina Tinio**, **Tina Pamintuan**, **Minelli Bautista**, **Christian Vasquez**, **Dale Villar** and **Johann Ekedum**.

Globe Handyphone threw one grand treat to the trendiest and coolest G-Plan subscribers sighted at each venue! **Candy Reyes**, **Rachel Soriano**, **Basti Ripoll**, **Angie Gimenez** and **Christine Timbol** each won a Nokia 3300 musical phone for being voted the most stylish party people at each event.

To top it all off, a specially designed lightshow and the musical strains of DJs **Boyet Almazan**, **Scrambled Edge** and **Mike Constantino**, **Martin Pulgar**, **Roberto Sanchez**, **Adrian Cuenca** and **Kevin Ruiz** provided the perfect party atmosphere for the ravishing revelers at the Glow parties. Indeed, the best things in life are reserved for those on Globe's G-plans!

One Great Glow party gang: Romina Urra-Gonzales with friends Carmina Francisco, Cris Ortigas and Butch Romero

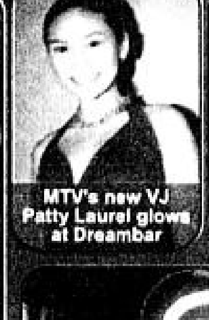

Fil-Am Actor Lou Diamond Philips made Globe's party sparkle even more!

Cinderella's Michelle Santos

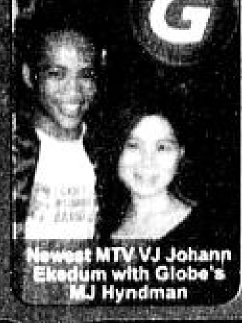
Mega Magazine's Minelli Bautista

GP Reyes with star columnist Celine Lopez, Chut Cuerva, Tina Tinio and Philip Cruz

A bird's eye view of Globe's Glow party at Temple


MTV's new VJ Patty Laurel glows at Dreambar

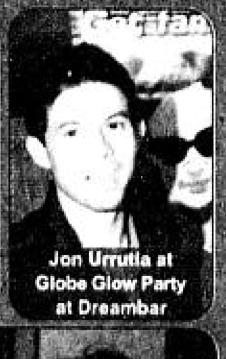
Tim Yap with chef Tina Pamintuan and party girl Kara Tolentino


Newest MTV VJ Johann Ekedum with Globe's MJ Hyndman

Fashion mixes@ the Globe party: Bb. Pilipinas World Rachel Soriano with model pal Pia Cabreira

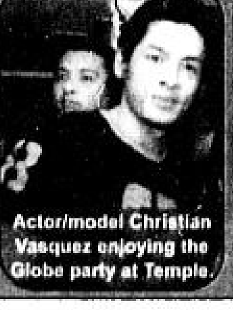
PBA coach Norman Black with Monet Estanislao and Benjie Black

It's girl bonding time for G-Plan subscribers Angeli Avila and Alma Verano.


Jon Urrutia at Globe Glow Party at Dreambar

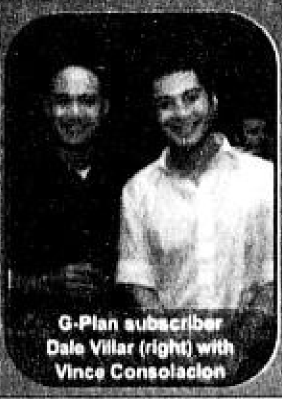
Globe's fantastic statue dancers

Stylist Che-chel Joson and TV personality Angel Jacob


Actor/model Christian Vasquez enjoying the Globe party at Temple.

Glamorous Mai Mai Cojuangco and friend glow

Party goddesses Emma Policarpio, Candy Bagatan and Tisha Veloso grace the Globe Party at Temple


G-Plan subscriber Dale Villar (right) with Vince Consolacion

I've bested them all! The coolest G-Plan subscriber of them all at Absinth. Christine Timbol.

GOSH! Big hair and hearts day

"AND now I'm fallin', fallin' fast again . . . and again . . . and again

MANO PO, KRIS. Her present day kabuki and geisha look

Game ka na ba?

SWAK!

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And she is everywhere—blockbuster movies, multiple TV shows, newspaper columns, glossy magazines, giant billboards, TV and print ads.

You blink and she's there. Day in and day out, it is Kris that people have on their mind, not Ninoy.

Even Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta has to labor for as much airtime, and has yet to succeed. The only time she was noticed was when she became the "Dancing Queen" after "succeeding" in supressing the Jose Velarde envelope. I'm sure Ninoy was rolling around in his grave over that incident!

The Aquino legacy does not end with Ninoy; there's still Kris!

How could they?

When I look at Ninoy's life I am hopeful. When I look at Kris' life I am confused. How could they be related?

It's not only that she went against her family by having relations with Philip Salvador, a married man decades older. And neither is it just that she is seeing another older, married actor, Joey Marquez.

What gets my goat is that it's inappropriate, to put it mildly, to broadcast every sordid detail of one's love life on national TV, especially with partners that are less than ideal. I think Kris should have the wisdom—okay, just make that decency—to discern which events in her life should be used as "material" for her shows, and which are better left unsaid. Reading private letters of apology to your mom or professing undying love, you-and-me-against-the-world style, may be great for ratings but disastrous for the family name.

The fact that every single Pinoy, especially in the provinces, is a TV addict, makes Kris phenomenally more influential than Ninoy ever was, even in his prime. She wields so much power, the masses who watch her shows avidly buy everything she endorses. Her high-pitched voice and *colegiala* English is not exactly reminiscent of her father's oratory prowess, but her hordes of fans prove it is infinitely more effective.

Whether she likes it or not, the torch has been passed. The family legacy is in her hands. Will she do as her father did, and stand up against all odds to become an instrument of change? Or will she choose the path of least resistance, continue to sell products, improve the ratings, and keep broadcasting details of her questionable relationships?

For all our sakes I hope that Ninoy's youngest daughter will prove that she inherited some of her father's wisdom.

So Kris, what's your final answer? *Game ka na ba?*

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)

'Keka' muna!

Because it asks the audience to root for the bad guy, Quark Henares' latest work could very well be the first of its kind

By Ovvian Castrillo

KATYA Santos and male lead Wendell Ramos at the CineManila premiere of Keka.

QUARK Henares. Living a dream.

THE FRAT boys. Luis Alandy, TJ Trinidad and Tristan Enriquez.

I LOOKED forward to meeting Quark Henares for the simple reason that he is quite literally living my dream life—writing and directing movies. I was also looking forward to seeing his work, knowing that as a filmmaker, he has been influenced by the same indie films that I enjoy watching. So, off I went to see "Keka," not quite knowing what to expect, but sure that it would be "different."

It most certainly was.

"Keka," Henares' latest, is not your ordinary flick. Although its leads are sexy stars Katya Santos and Wendell Ramos, "Keka" has no steamy sex scenes. But it does not fall short on entertainment value.

The direction is inventive, the film quality is good, and the script is funny in both Pinoy and film noire contexts. Also, the music is upbeat and young, and the feel is very real. The movie is a slasher flick taken from the slasher's viewpoint.

It challenges the viewer to think out of the ordinary, to accept that a movie does not have to be linear, and that the *kontrabida* needs love, too.

The movie is very character-driven, and since the characters are extreme types, it is a hilarious ride.

The story does not conform to one particular genre, making it difficult to describe. Direk Quark lends me a hand: "Action, thriller, comedy. But more than these, it is a love story, about this girl who loses her boyfriend in a frat war. She goes after killers. The policeman on her trail falls in love with her."

Well-written, the movie takes potshots at pop culture—soap operas, movie gossip shows, child actors. Quark's humor is all over the place, sometimes subtle, at times glaring. The viewer who has a keen ear for his language, immediately sees that he does not skip a beat.

He said he thought up this movie way back in high school. "I wondered about a slasher. I wondered about a slasher film, through the eyes of the slasher. The challenge was how to identify with this person."

Because "Keka" asks the audience to root for the bad guy, it could very well be the first of its kind.

That was why it was very important to find the right female lead. "I wanted someone adorable, someone people can fall in love with."

Katya Santos did fit the bill.

Quark says: "She is just the most 'game' person, one of the best people I have worked with."

He has almost as much to say about the others in the cast and crew. "There was real camaraderie. It was a great experience. I had never been so happy working on a film."

Globe basks in the After *glow*

The creme de la creme of the Metro's glitzy party scene glam up Globe's Glow party series.

Pulsating psychedella, hi-tech, hypnotic beats, free drinks and the awesome company of Metro Manila's best, brightest and most beautiful were the hallmarks of Globe Plan subscribers' Glow party series, an exclusive treat for its G-Plan subscribers at five of Makati's chic and saucy stomping grounds: Dreambar, Ebisu, Temple, Absinth and Restaurant 12.

Globe's Glow party series treated Metro Manila's trendiest G-Plan subscribers to free drinks, bar chow discounts, as well the privilege of being the first to have a glimpse of Globe G-Plans' most recent innovation, the **G-Plan opti-SIM**, the world's most powerful SIM, enabling the subscriber to do more of the things they want.

The Glow parties presented a picture of the exciting and enviable life of a G-Plan subscriber! Even Hollywood stars Tia Carrere and Lou Diamond Philips just had to join cosmo *Manille's* most radiant and ravishing at Dreambar to party with Globe!

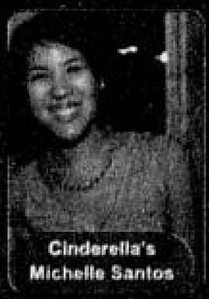
Also seen tripping the light fantastic at the party exclusive for Globe subscribers at Dreambar and then Ebisu were **Mon and Tweetie Gonzales**, **Teddy and Janine Dario**, **Romina Urra-Gonzales**, MTV's VJ **Patty Laurel** and **Georgette Tengco**, actor/director **Eric Quizon,** PBA hotshots composed of **Bobong Velez**, **Norman Black**, **Chino Trinidad**, **Joaqui Trillo**, cager **Jeffrey Cariaso**, siblings **Louie and Jon Urrutia**, professional party animal **Tim Yap**, the head turner **Rachel Soriano**, fashion designers **Tonichi Nocom**, **Randy Ortiz** and **Vic Barba**. Even more gorgeous gadabouts turned out the next weekend to party with Globe at Temple, Absinth and Restaurant 12. Media magnets sighted at the exclusive party for Globe G-Plan subscribers were, **Celine Lopez**, **GP Reyes**, **Phillip Cruz**, **Tina Tinio**, **Tina Pamintuan**, **Minelli Bautista**, **Christian Vasquez**, **Dale Villar** and **Johann Ekedum**.

Globe Handyphone threw one grand treat to the trendiest and coolest G-Plan subscribers sighted at each venue! **Candy Reyes**, **Rachel Soriano**, **Basti Ripoll**, **Angie Gimenez** and **Christine Timbol** each won a Nokia 3300 musical phone for being voted the most stylish party people at each event.

To top it all off, a specially designed lightshow and the musical strains of DJs **Boyet Almazan**, **Scrambled Edge** and **Mike Constantino**, **Martin Pulgar**, **Roberto Sanchez**, **Adrian Cuenca** and **Kevin Ruiz** provided the perfect party atmosphere for the ravishing revelers at the Glow parties. Indeed, the best things in life are reserved for those on Globe's G-plans!

One Great Glow party gang: Romina Urra-Gonzales with friends Carmina Francisco, Cris Ortigas and Butch Romero

Fil-Am Actor Lou Diamond Philips made Globe's party sparkle even more!


Cinderella's Michelle Santos

Mega Magazine's Minelli Bautista

GP Reyes with star columnist Celine Lopez, Chut Cuerva , Tina Tinio and Philip Cruz

A bird's eye view of Globe's Glow party at Temple

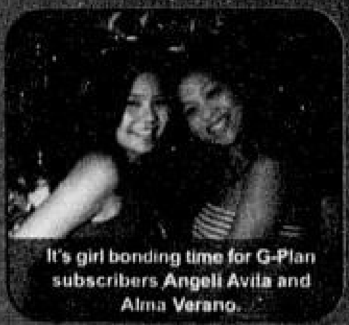
MTV's new VJ Patty Laurel glows at Dreambar

Tim Yap with chef Tina Pamintuan and party girl Kara Tolentino

Newest MTV VJ Johann Ekedum with Globe's MJ Hyndman

Fashion mixes@ the Globe party: Bb. Pilipinas World Rachel Soriano with model pal Pia Cabreira

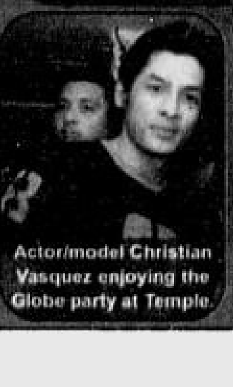
PBA coach Norman Black with Monet Estanislao and Benjie Black


It's girl bonding time for G-Plan subscribers Angeli Avila and Alma Verano.

Jon Urrutia at Globe Glow Party at Dreambar

Globe's fantastic statue dancers

Stylist Che-chel Joson and TV personality Angel Jacob


Actor/model Christian Vasquez enjoying the Globe party at Temple.

Glamorous Mai Mai Cojuangco and friend glow

Party goddesses Emma Policarpio, Candy Bagatan and Tisha Veloso grace the Globe Party at Temple

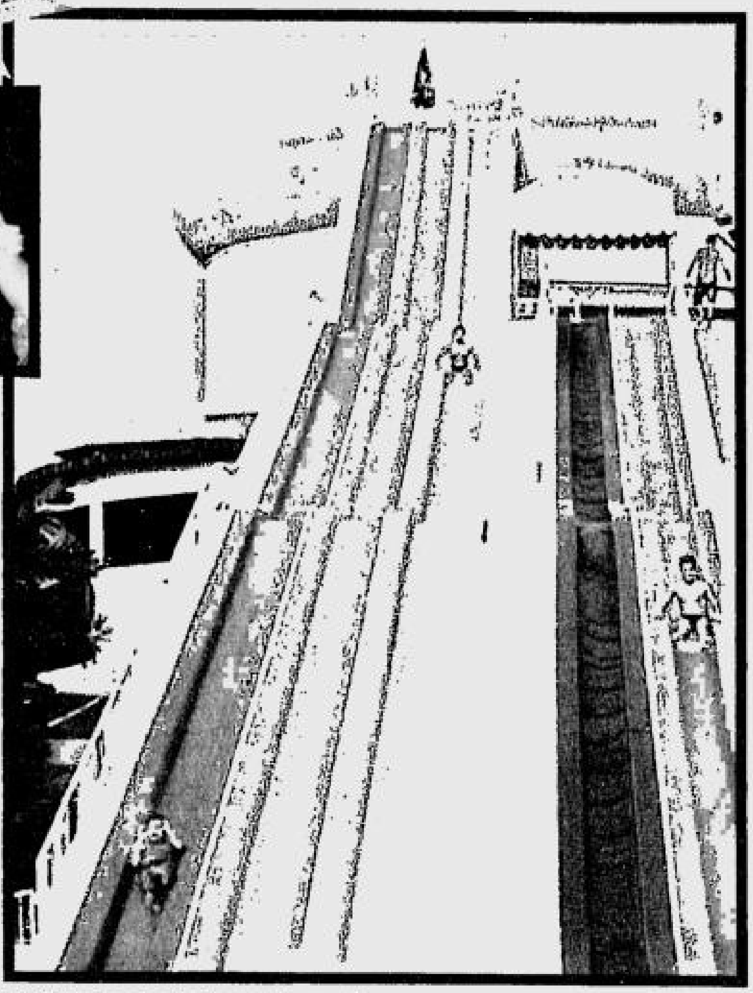
G-Plan subscriber Dale Villar (right) with Vince Consolacion

I've bested them all! The coolest G-Plan subscriber of them all at Absinth, Christine Timbol.

BUBBLY, bubbly, they are all so manly.

TONIGHT I will be Miss Saigon!

EAST WEST connection



SLIDE naked, all colors welcome!

Proof positive

Asia scales the rainbow connection with three-day gay and lesbian event in Singapore

By Jay Santos

ASIA is finally opening itself up to the colors and sound of the gay and lesbian circuit party scene. Nation:03, held Aug. 7 to 9, is proof positive. This three-day circuit party organized by Fridae.com, Asia's gay and lesbian network, was held in Singapore for the third straight year at Sentosa's Musical Fountain. The main party coincided with Singapore's National Day.

This was just a few days after Zouk Out, a humongous two-day outdoor party where seven out of 10 participants were gay, and which featured famous spinners such as Sasha, James Lavelle, Dirty Vegas, and even our very own Manolet Dario.

For Nation:03, professional partygoers swooped in from from all over Asia's party capitals—Hong Kong, Bangkok, Sydney, and Kuala Lumpur. The Manila contingent was relatively small, with only 12 members.

The welcome party at Why Not?, a gay club in the Tanjong Pagar area, was packed to the rafters with friendly locals who gave away loads of free drinks, and excited tourists who managed to get into Singapore early to attend all three nights.

The following night, garbed in tank tops and shorts, the standard circuit boy uniform, everyone made their way to Sentosa. As the crowd started to arrive in droves and the queue grew longer and prettier, the air became heavier, hotter, and sexier. The party was a blast, with almost 5,000 sweaty, half-naked circuit boys, power dykes, colorful drag queens, and adoring fag hags.

While fire and water spewed out from behind the DJ's booth and laser lights shot out of the merlion's mouth, DJs Rick Mitchell (Miami White Party) and Mandy Rollins (Sydney Mardi Gras & Sleaze Ball) kept everyone floored and begging for more. Manila's own partymeister Erich Edralin was present, as was Frank M who kept the crowd in awe flagging the night away on stage. As the party wound down, those who couldn't get enough hauled themselves over to Indochine's after-party.

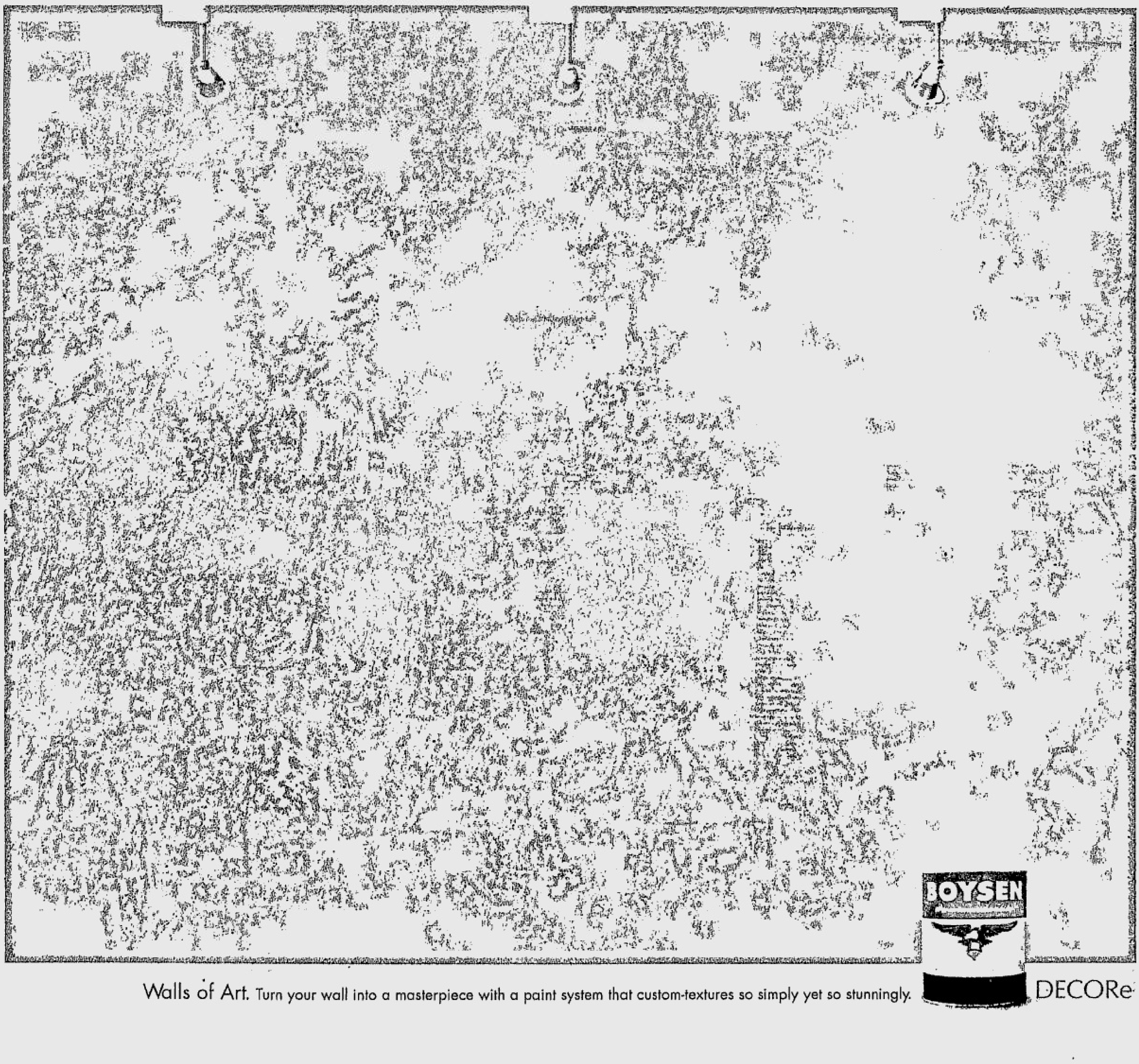
In classic circuit-party fashion, there was a poolside recovery party at Big Splash teeming with gay boys in trunks eager to show off hard-earned buff bods while sliding down the appropriately colored rainbow water slides. The closing party that night at Tunnel, a club right behind Splash, proved more difficult to get into than a chastity belt. No one was spared from the hour-and-a-half queue. When heaven's gates finally opened, the club was hot as hell rendering everyone shirtless yet again and gasping for air, while the rest of the hard-core circuit boys gyrated Christina Aguillera-style across the impossibly packed floor.

Here are some pictures from the party. See you all at Nation:04!

ABS FABS. A bikini and board shorts summit

THE NATION—Asian circuit partying at its most hard core.

WET, WET, WET. All male action in Sentosa. Your move, owners of Bed and Malate-philes!



BOYSEN
Walls of Art. Turn your wall into a masterpiece with a paint system that custom-textures so simply yet so stunningly.
DECORe

NAKAKATUWA NAMAN SI ASIMO !

Junior Inquirer Special

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

E-mail: pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Duck Race Page 3
- Short Story: The Brother Who Wasn't Mine Page 4
- Tristan's Trivia Page 6
- Ella's Slippers Page 7

Atô ni!

AUGUST was declared "Buwan ng Wika" on July 15, 1997. For a country with 171 languages, we have a lot to celebrate.

Here are 11 ways to encourage others to love our own, courtesy of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino:

Tagalog: "Mahalin natin ang ating sariling wika."

Bicol: "Kamotan niato an satuyang sadiring tataramon."

Ilocano: "Ayaten tayo ti bukod tayo nga pagsasao."

Cebuano: "Higugmaon nato ang atuang sinultihan."

Hiligaynon: "Palangga-on naton ang aton kaugalingon nga pulong."

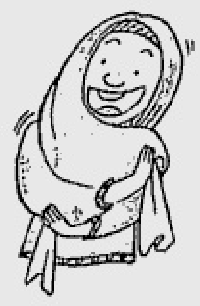
Samar-Leyte: "Higugmaa-an aton kalugaringon nga lenguaje."

Zambal: "Labyen tamo ya sarilin halita."

Pangasinan: "Aroen so salita tayo."

Pampango: "Luguran taya ing sariling salita."

Tausog: "Lasahun natu in bahasa ta."



Maranao: "Kabebayaan tano so basa tano."

ASIMO visits the Philippines

It's a walking, talking humanoid robot that can dance the itik-itik

By Eline Santos

BICENTENNIAL MAN and A.I. may be science fiction now, but Honda is bringing this fiction a few steps closer to reality with ASIMO.

ASIMO, which stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility, is the first walking humanoid robot. It took 14 years to develop because while walking is easy for us, it's a complicated process to duplicate in a machine.

Before ASIMO, there were seven experimental robots scientists used to develop fast and stable walking from 1986 to 1993. Afterwards, three prototype models of a humanoid robot were made from 1993 to 1997.

ASIMO was finally born on Octo-

ASIMO visits/ p. 7

ASIMO
HONDA

MABUHAY, Philippines! ASIMO, given a voice of a 10-year-old boy, greets audiences during his shows.

Meet ASIMO !

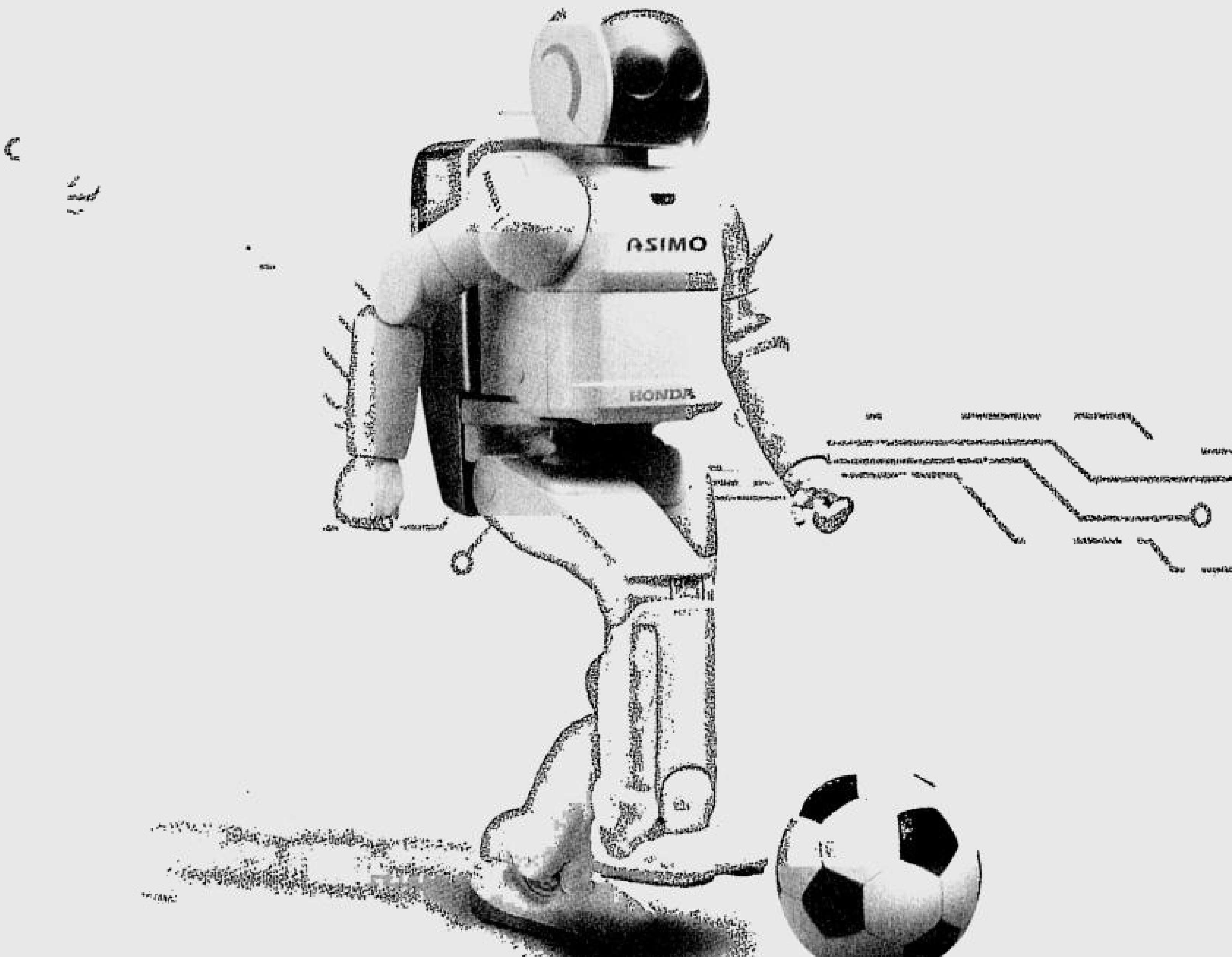
Meet ASIMO or Advanced Step in Innovative MObility, the pinnacle of Honda's technology and commitment to bring joy to man. ASIMO's human-like height, dimensions and abilities were specifically designed to be of practical use in actual human environments. The breakthrough Honda technology used for ASIMO such as Prediction Movement Control, 26° of Freedom, Intelligent Real-Time Flexible Walk is considered a huge step in robotics. With Honda's creation of a humanoid robot, the dream of robots co-existing with man is made possible.

Honda technology opens up new possibilities in mobility and brings us a step closer to improving our way of life. Be one of the first to meet ASIMO, Honda's most advanced humanoid robot as he visits Manila!

ASIMO

Join the excitement at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Level 1 Exhibit Area & Level 2 Grand Atrium
on Aug. 23 to 24, 2003. ASIMO's shows start at 1:00 pm. See you there!

HONDA
The Power of Dreams



Junior INQUIRER Special

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Child-Friendly Awardee
UNICEF-PPI CHILD-FRIENDLY NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALIST AWARDS

2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Polly and Gabriel

FRIENDSHIPS came in different shapes and sizes. A small, chocolate bar-shaped friendship could be your chum in the school bus. A medium-sized, basketball-shaped friendship could be the person you hang out with during recess time. And a big, warm and furry gigantic teddy bear-shaped friendship could be the very best friend you've ever had.

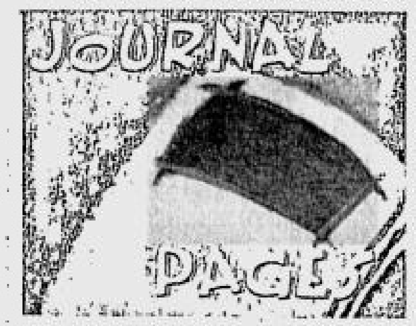
In this issue of Junior Inquirer Special, we have a touching short story about two best friends named Polly and Gabriel. They are the best of pals and they are neighbors, too. But they also think of themselves as family.

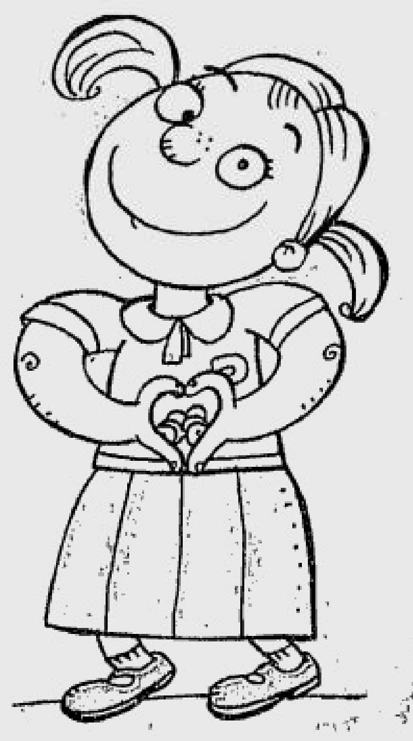
It's a wonderful story about two kids being friends and their parents being good friends also. Polly's mom and dad watch over and help Gabriel and his Lola Miling because Gabriel's parents are away, working in Canada. When Gabriel leaves to join his parents, Polly feels like she has lost a brother. But she's happy because she knows Gabriel is only glad to be finally with his parents. She is happy too because she can have Lola Miling all to herself!

Penned by **JI correspondent Monica Lualhati**, "The Brother Who Wasn't Mine" is a good story to share with your parents, your friends and your relatives. You know you've found a good friend when he or she wants the best for you. Friends take care of one another, and when you find this kind of friendship, it's the best thing that can ever happen to you.

WE need writers

IF YOU'RE 10-12 years old and can write very good essays, news and feature stories, we would like to hear from you! Write a 200-300 word essay about your most memorable experience in school or at home and send it to the editor at nvizcarra@inquirer.com.ph with your contact details. We especially want to hear from young writers based outside Metro Manila.





The Greatest Gift

By Jekka Mae G. Camon
Grade 6, St. Mary's Academy
Pasay City

EVERYONE has priorities. My priority is my family, especially my mom.

She's special. Of all the grown ups I know, she's the most genuine person I know. But sometimes, I can't understand her. Sometimes we argue.

I know she's proud of me. It's just that sometimes I feel she only sees my not so good side and not my strengths.

But one day I found out that I was wrong. Let me tell you a story.

It was Mother's Day. I bought her a gift. It was a simple one because I couldn't think of anything to give her. I didn't have money then. So, I bought her some inexpensive chocolates.

I always gave her gifts on Mother's Day. I would give her either flowers or chocolates. And I remember that all these years she never really expressed to me her appreciation for those gifts. I would tell her I love her, and she wouldn't say anything back.

That year, things were different. After we had lunch, I gave her the chocolates. I told her, "Ma, sorry, this is all I can afford. Happy Mother's Day."

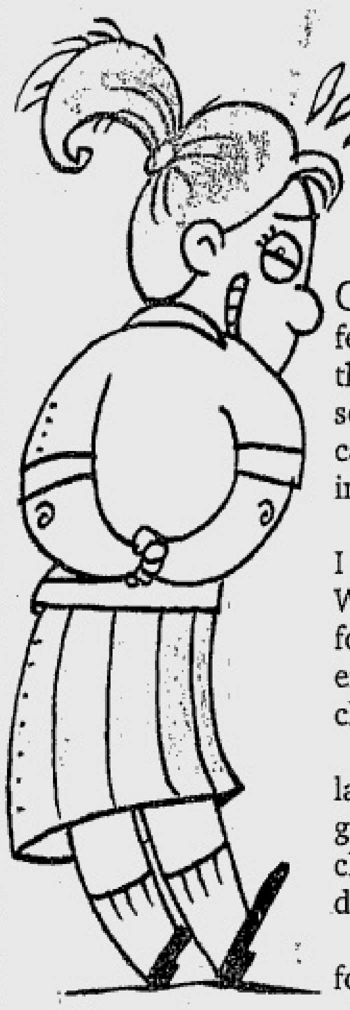
To my surprise, she hugged me and told me, "Jek, thank you, *ha*? This gift may be simple, but it means a lot to me. I know I haven't been good at showing you or telling you that I love you dearly. It's been difficult because I have had to deal with problems of my own. But I want you to remember always that I love you."

After she said that, I was speechless. I wanted to burst into tears.

Now I know that my mom really loves me. Even if we sometimes quarrel, in the end we tell each other how much we love each other.

I will treasure those moments, those words that she taught me. I will love her as long as I live because we don't know when God will take our parents from us.

I want to be like her when I grow up. I'll always be proud of her no matter what happens. I love her and I always will. Because my mom, she's the greatest gift I have ever received.



A New School

By Roma Airia P. Garcia.
Grade 6, Cavite State University
Indang, Cavite

ON MY first day in my new school, I felt really shy. My mother was with me the whole flag ceremony. She left me with some of my classmates who knew me because they were my classmates way back in pre-school.

I was assigned a seat beside somebody I didn't know, so I just remained silent. We were oriented on school rules, uniform, and about SARS. Before our adviser left, she introduced me to the whole class.

When it was time for our Math class later in the day, we were given small groups and I got the chance to talk to my classmates about a topic they didn't understand well.

As the days passed, I began to feel comfortable with my new classmates. I started talking to my seatmate during our free time. We talked about the topics we like, especially "Meteor Garden."

Everything was far from what I expected. I thought I was going to be teased. But my classmates were not like that. In fact, they were all very friendly to me. I hope I make more friends and, of course, keep my grades up.

I also feel more comfortable in my new school because my mother teaches in its college department. After my classes, I just walk to her faculty room.

I know now that it's not scary after all, moving to a new school. Mom had always told me, it's a way of meeting new friends, finding new adventures and challenges.

I understand now that my parents trust me. They know that I can manage meeting people on my own. I know too that they care for me and love me very much.

Right now, I have old friends, new classmates, new challenges and the same loving and supportive parents with me. I know now that challenges in life always come and we should never be scared to face them. These will make us stronger and better individuals.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

Thanks!

DEAR JI,

Thank you for publishing my work ("I Like Writing", JI, Aug. 16, 2003). It is really nice that you give children a chance to see their work published in a newspaper. If you need someone to write for JI, I and my friends would be happy to help you. Good luck and BE HAPPY!!—**INSHALLAH P. MONTERO**, Grade 5, Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, Manila

Dear Inshallah,

*Just keep those stories, poems and essays coming! Also, let me let you in on some really good news. JI will be launching a contest for young writers soon. So, watch out for the announcement! Be happy, too!—**The Editor***

JI Everyday

HI! I would like to know if you could give Junior Inquirer daily. I can't get it on Saturdays because my dad doesn't get newspapers every Saturday. But that's okay, because my school gets Junior Inquirer every week. Well, that's all! Thanks!—**JASMINE REYES**, 10, cutiejas6thb@yahoo.com

Dear Jasmin,

*Well, I sure hope you don't miss this special issue. We go nationwide once a month. Better ask your dad to check the newspaper stand on Saturdays from now on. Happy reading!—**IGGY IPIS, JI Resident Book Insect***

Someday

DEAR Editor,

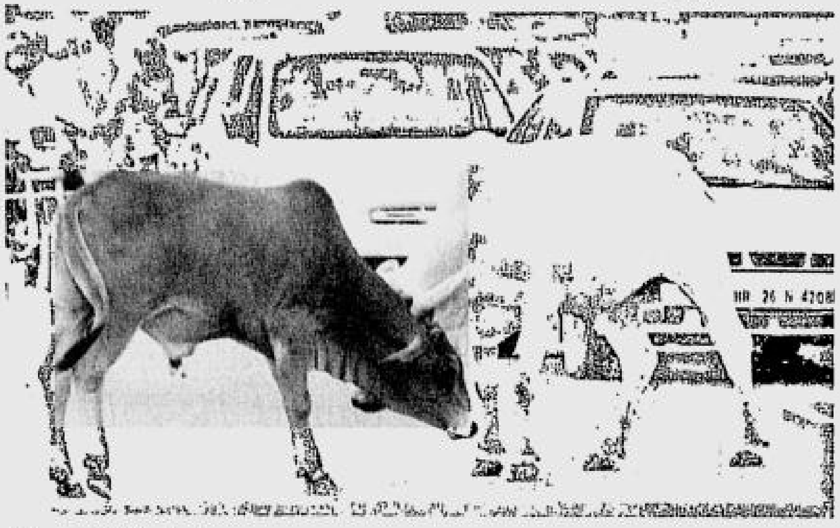
I am always inspired by the articles I've read on Junior Inquirer. I hope I will be published in JI one day.—**ROMA AIRIA P. GARCIA**, Grade 6, Child Development Center of the Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite.

Dear Airia,

Whoops! Look above you! It's your essay. Your submission was a little too long for Journal Pages so we decided to think of it as two essays. Watch out for the next one soon. And keep 'em coming! Practice makes perfect.—**The Editor**

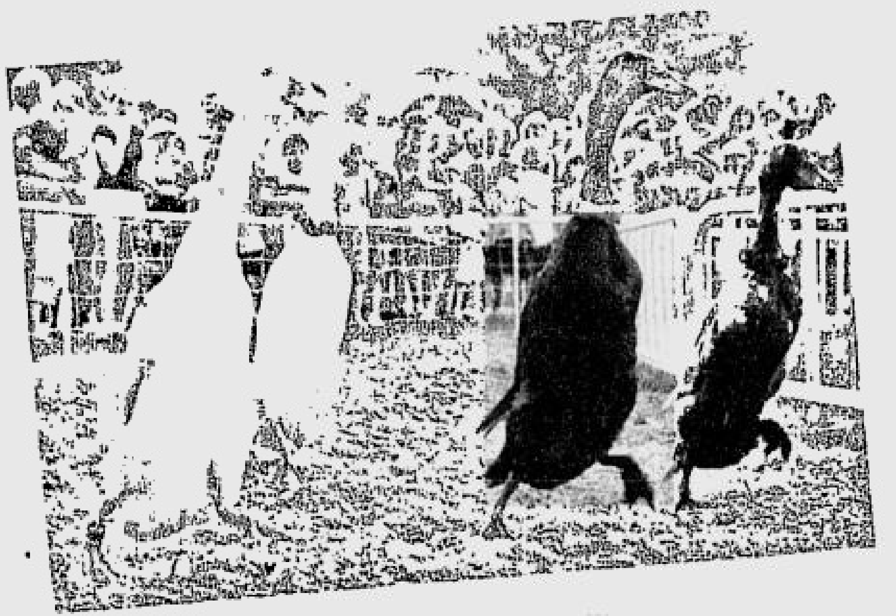
WORLD SCOPE

Vanse, Norway
Hong Kong, Republic of China
Maryland, USA
New Delhi, India
Sydney, Australia



Road Idols

TWO Indian bulls fight in the midst of heavy traffic in New Delhi. India's majority Hindus worship cows, making it difficult for the government to tackle the growing menace of cattle blocking main roads and congested streets in the Indian capital. *Reuters*



Fast Waddlers

LOCAL residents watch a duck race during the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The event is the biggest county fair in Maryland with animal shows and amusement park rides. *AFP*

Stair-Climbin' Wheelchair

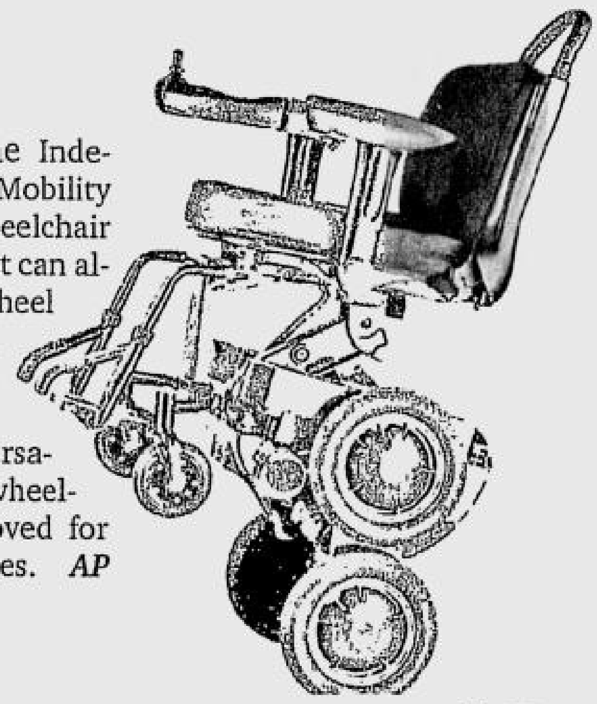
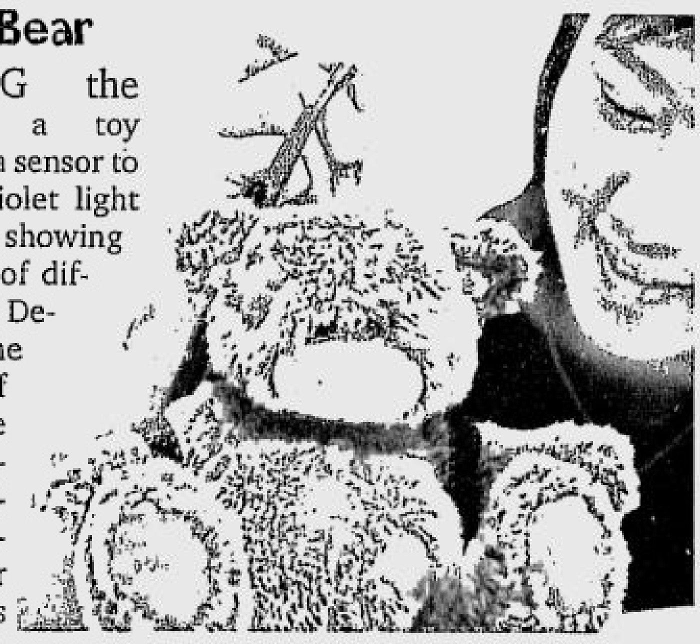


PHOTO shows the Independence iBOT 3000 Mobility System, the first wheelchair that can climb stairs. It can also shift into four-wheel drive to scoot up a grassy hill and even elevate its occupant for eye-level conversation. The high-tech wheelchair has been approved for use in the United States. *AP*

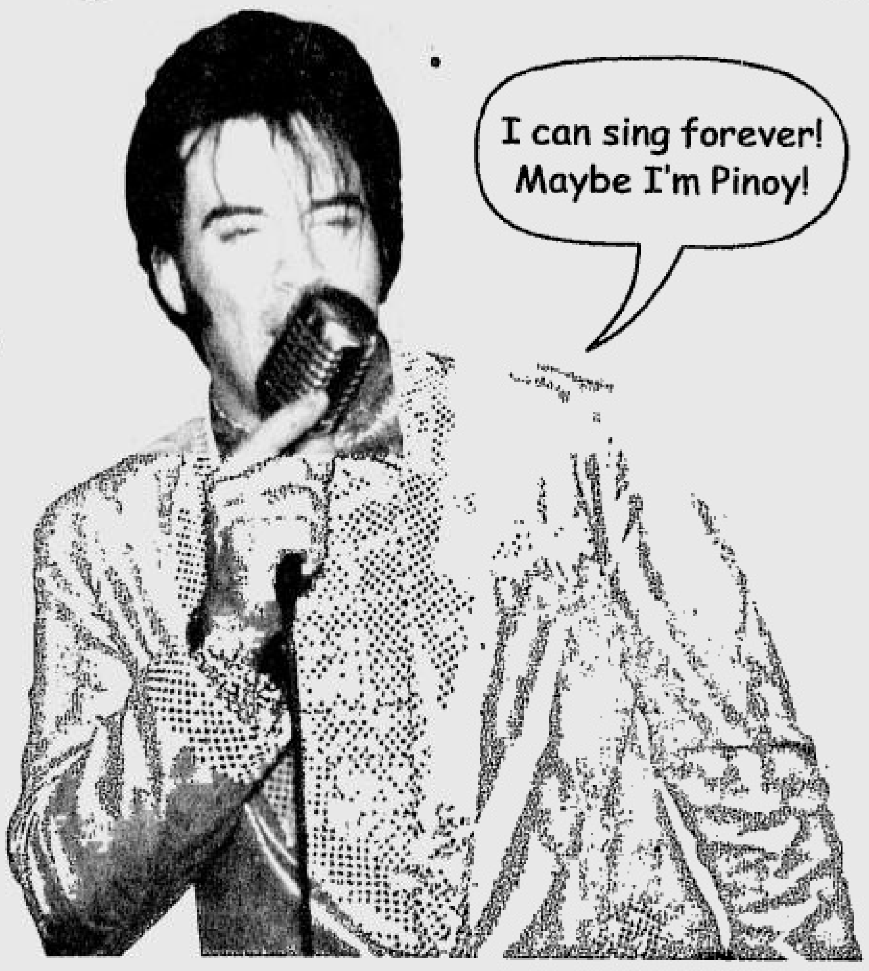
Check the Bear



PRESENTING the "UV Bear," a toy equipped with a sensor to monitor ultraviolet light levels by showing through lights of different colors. Developed by the Department of Physics at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, the bear will be sold as cost effective, portable and battery-free to keep out of the sun's harmful rays. *Reuters*

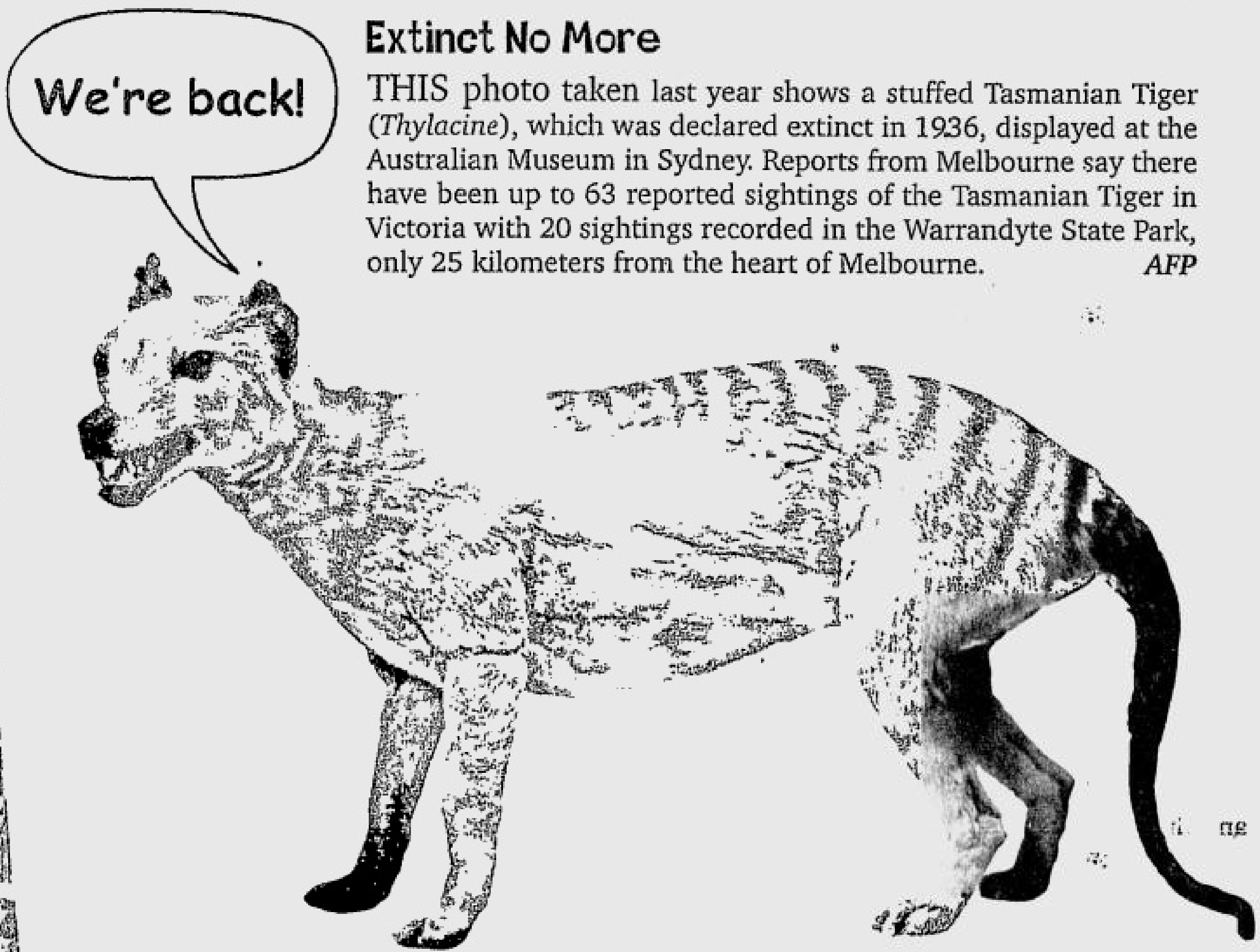
Persistent Presley

THIRTY-FIVE year-old Norwegian Elvis-imitator Kjell "Elvis" Henning Bjoernstad set a new world record. He sang Elvis Presley songs for 26 hours, 4 minutes and 40 seconds in Vanse, southern Norway on Aug. 20. The old record of 25 hours and 33 minutes was held by British Gary Jay. *AFP*


I can sing forever! Maybe I'm Pinoy!

Extinct No More

THIS photo taken last year shows a stuffed Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacine*), which was declared extinct in 1936, displayed at the Australian Museum in Sydney. Reports from Melbourne say there have been up to 63 reported sightings of the Tasmanian Tiger in Victoria with 20 sightings recorded in the Warrandyte State Park, only 25 kilometers from the heart of Melbourne. *AFP*



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Cartoon festival
Garfield ©1978 Paws
Garfield collectibles
Free
pencil case for a minimum P300 purchase of Garfield items
Shop Dept
Garfield Shorts & Shirt
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Children's Wear Dept
Garfield Shoes
Free
Socks for every P300 purchase of regular-priced Garfield items
Children's Shoes Dept.
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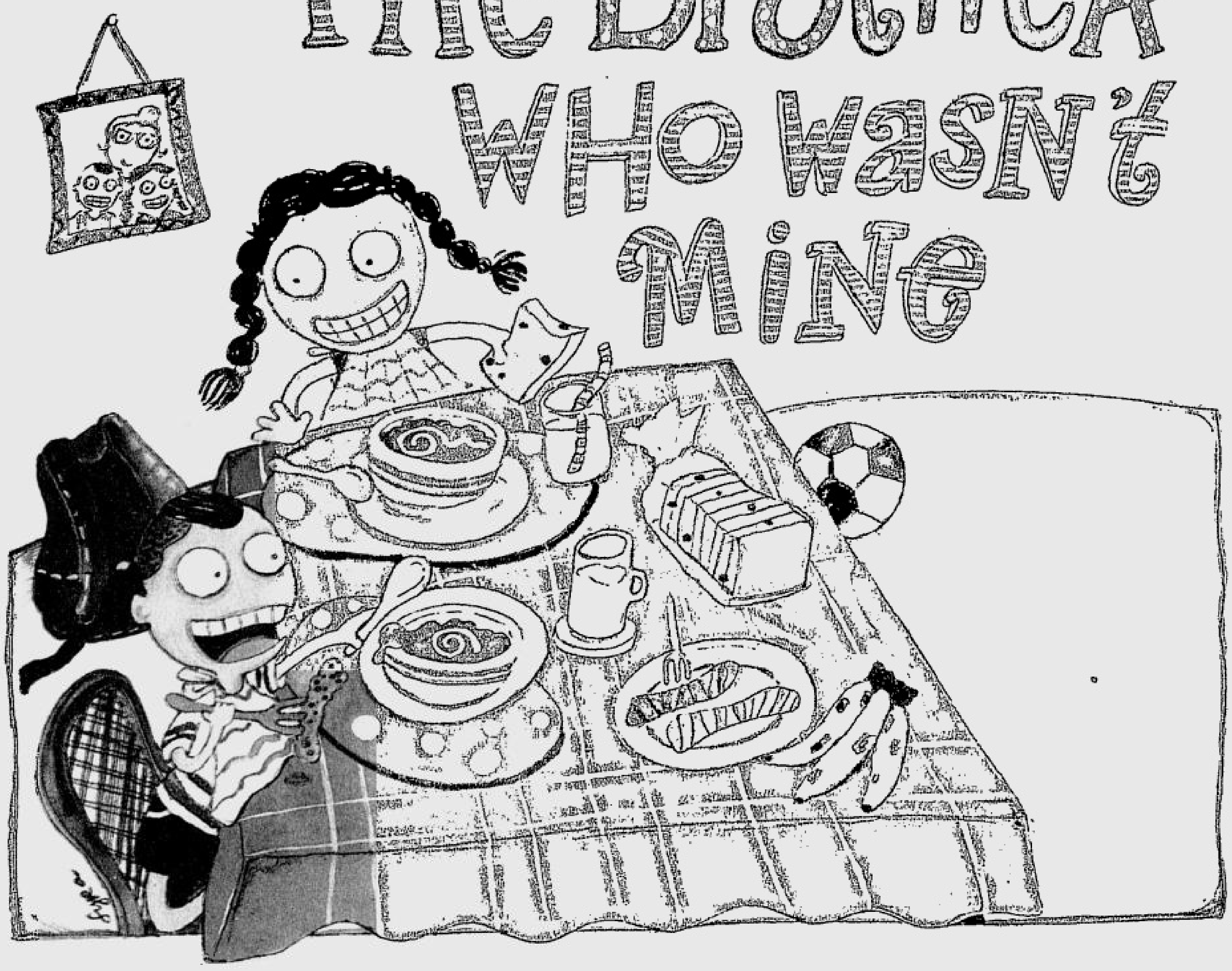
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO

The Brother Who Wasn't Mine

FOR or BY KIDS



"Gabriel was very sad, too, but I knew he was also excited to live in another country. He will finally be with his real parents instead of sharing mine."

Polly and Gabriel are best friends. When Gabriel's parents arrive in the Philippines from long years of working abroad, the two kids' families have a happy reunion. But it also means Gabriel will join his parents abroad and the two best friends will not see each other for a very long time.

Story by Monica Lualhati
Art by Lyra Abueg Garcellano

I AM Polly. Gabriel and I grew up together on Looban Street with Lola Miling, Papa and Mama. Gabriel is an only child like me, but he lives with his Lola Miling because his parents live and work in Canada. I don't even remember how they look like, but Lola Miling shows us their pictures.

Everyday, right after school, I go straight to their house because my parents would still be working. Lola Miling serves us merienda. Then, she helps me with my homework while Gabriel patiently waits for us to finish. After my homework is done, it is time for fun! Gabriel and I play a lot of different games like hide-and-seek, tag and even hopscotch.

Sometimes, we just sit down and listen to Lola Miling's stories. When night is near, it is time to say goodbye to them. My parents fetch me after work and so it's time to go home. When we get home, we eat dinner, watch a little TV, and then it's time for me to sleep.

On weekends, Papa, Mama and I take Gabriel with us to the mall and the grocery. We sometimes go to the movies, visit theme parks or go swimming. We always take Gabriel with us wherever we go on Saturdays so that Lola Miling can clean the house and do the laundry. Gabriel brings their grocery list with him and we do their grocery for them. On Sundays, Lola Miling and Gabriel join us for mass.

ONE DAY, Lola Miling invited our family over for dinner at their house. She said she had some very surprising news for all of us. That evening, as we were all seated at the table and Lola Miling was serving dinner, I asked her at once, "Lola Miling, what is your surprise?" I thought it was going to be something wonderful and important.

Lola Miling answered, "Gabriel's parents are coming home!"

"When?" Gabriel asked, his eyes shining with excitement.

"Next, next Saturday," Lola Miling said, equally excited.

"Wow! You'll finally see them again," I told Gabriel.

"Yes, how I've missed them," Gabriel replied.

Papa, Mama and I decided to help Lola Miling clean their house for the arrival and Gabriel helped a lot, too.

The big day finally arrived. Papa fetched them at the airport. After all, he was Gabriel's dad's best friend when they were in school. When Gabriel's parents arrived, everyone was excited. There were gifts for all. At first, Gabriel was a bit shy, but all he needed was some warming up.

After dinner, while the grown-ups had sipped their coffee and Gabriel and I had drank our milk, I asked Gabriel's mom, "When are you leaving?"

She answered, "We leave next Saturday."

"So soon?" Gabriel asked. "That's not enough time to go to all the places I want us to visit. I missed you so much then you're leaving again."

"Oh, don't be sad, Gabriel," his Dad said, "because I have good news for you. We are not leaving you here. You are coming with us!"

When he said that, the smile left my face. I felt like my world was falling to pieces.

"What? You're bringing him?" I asked.

"Yes, because we missed him so much," Gabriel's mom said.

"But you can't! Who will I play with? He is happy here with us and Lola Miling," I said.

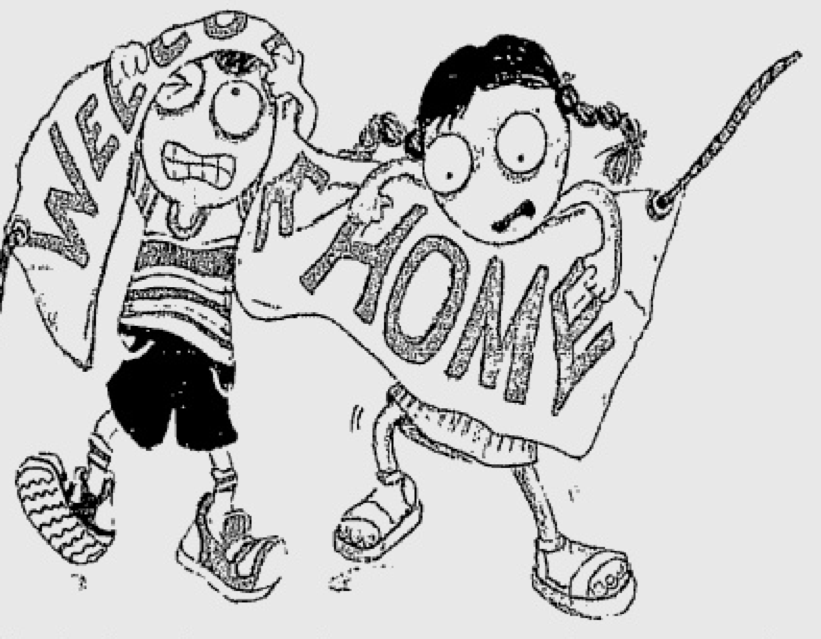
"We know that this will be hard for you, Polly. But we've already decided that being away from him isn't such a good idea anymore. So please try to understand," Gabriel's mom told me gently.

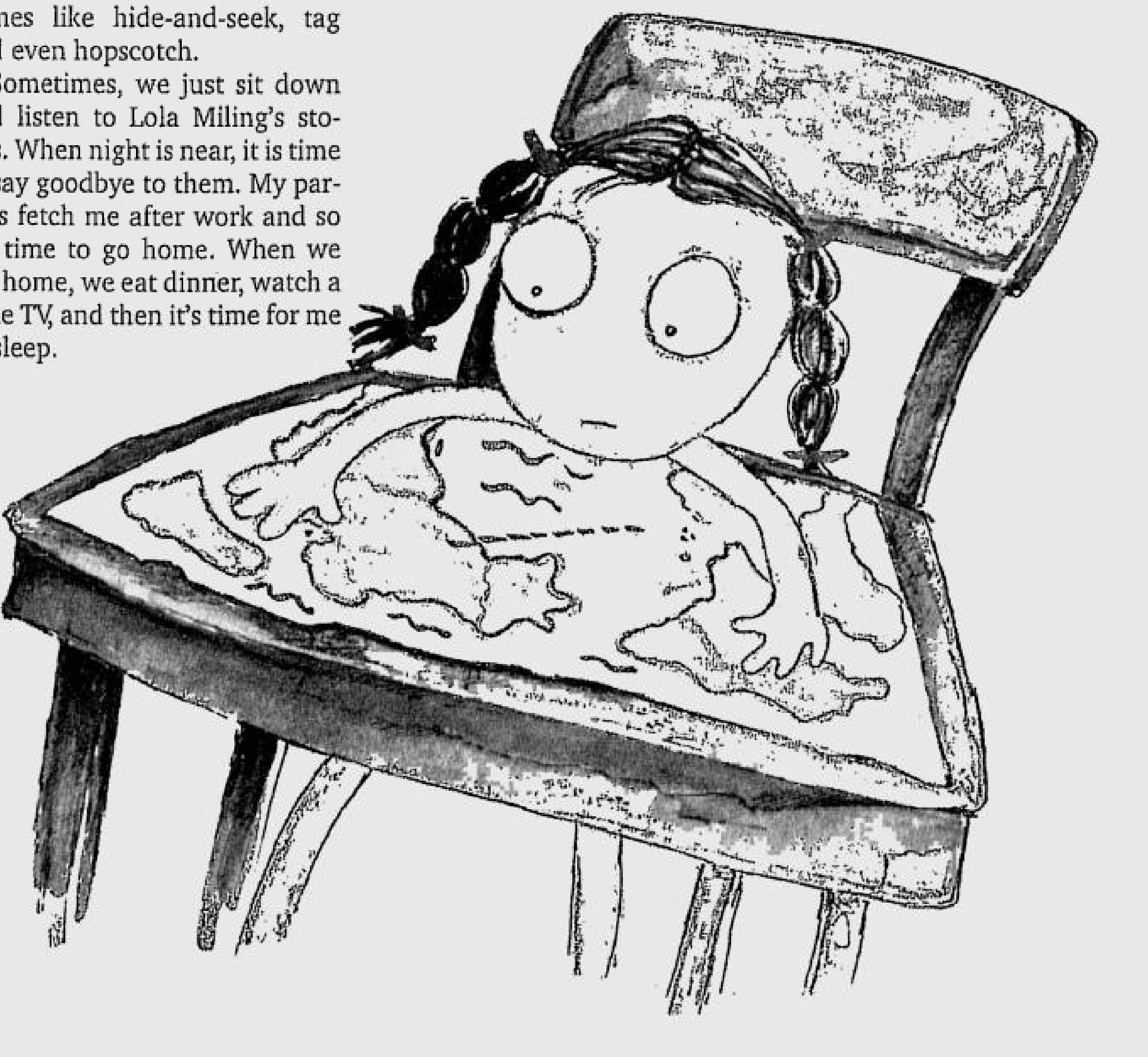
I felt very sad. I felt the tears in my eyes and heard Papa say, "We better go. It was nice to see you guys again. Goodbye!" Then, before I knew it, I was in my bed at home, crying myself to sleep.

The next few days were very hard for me, but somehow I managed. Gabriel was very sad, too, but I knew he was also excited to live in another country. He will finally be with his real parents instead of sharing mine.

When they finally left, I was very, very sad. I realized that Gabriel was more than just a playmate, neighbor or best friend. He was like the little brother that I never had. Just the same, he wasn't really mine.

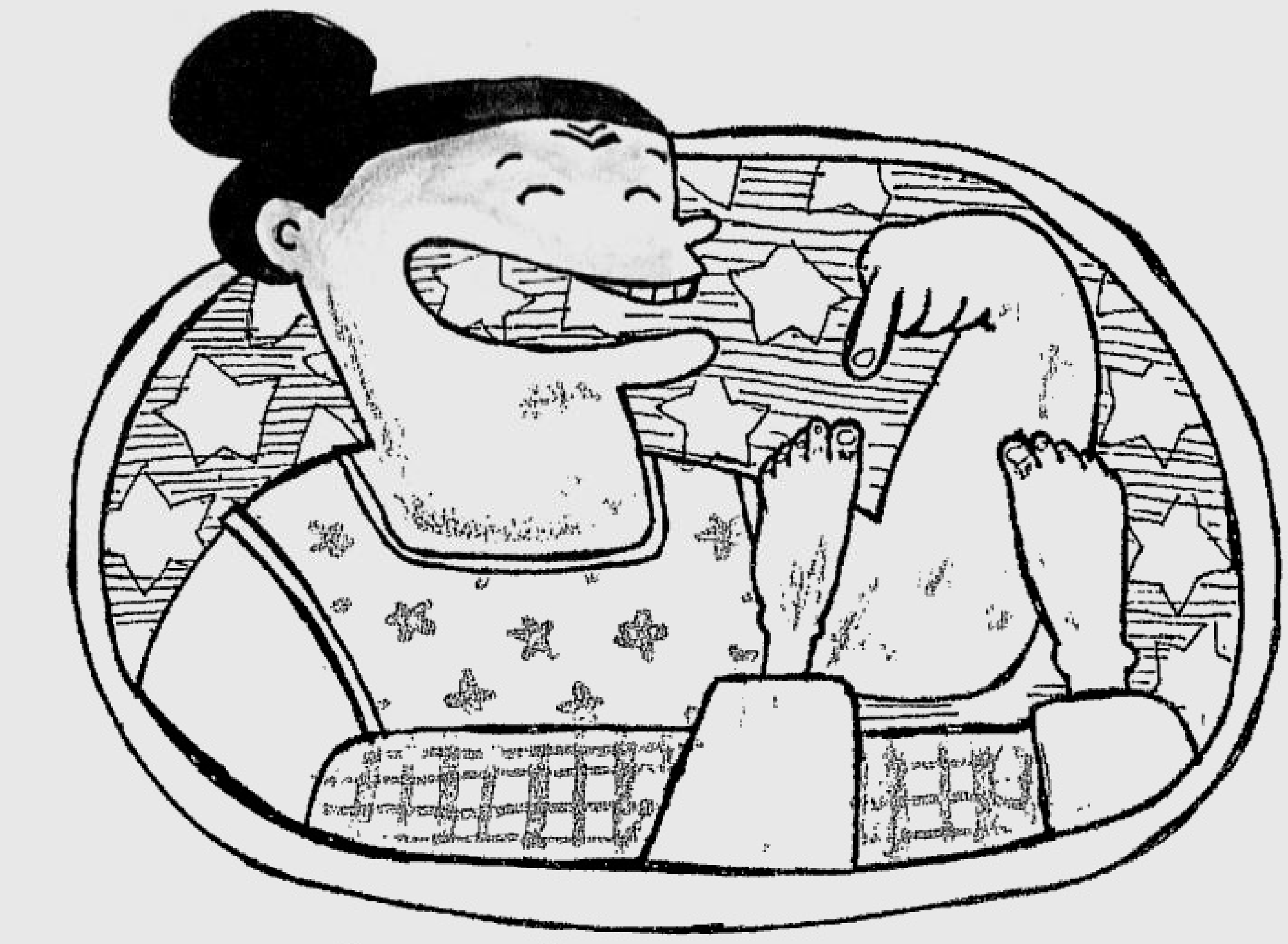
Everyday, after school, I still go to Lola Miling's house. She still serves me merienda and helps me with my homework. But after homework, there is no Gabriel to play with. Lola Miling and I miss him a lot so we try to keep ourselves busy. She teaches me how to do chores at home, how to cook, bake, sew and a lot of other things. I know Gabriel is happy where he is and I am glad that now I have Lola Miling all to myself.





***Monica**, 12, is a freshman at St. Benedict College. She enjoys playing the piano, painting, reading, writing, traveling and going to school. Monica is an only child.*

***Lyra** is the creator of Atomo and Weboy. She has no brother.*



Buhok sa Paa
(at Iba Pa)

Kuwento ni Christine C. Rivero
Guhit ni Marcus Nada

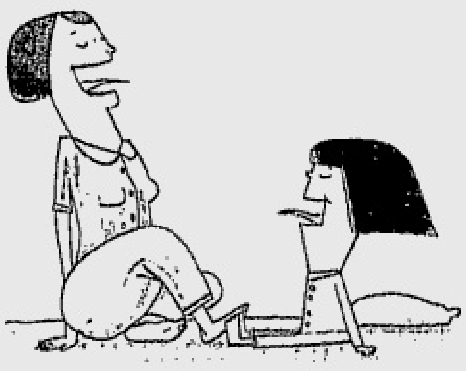
NYEH!
Muntik na akong mapatayo sa kama
sa narinig kong sinabi ni Lola.
Kay Lolo ko raw nakuha ang aking mga paa?!

Ganito muna kasi iyon.
Tuwing wala akong pasok, dito ako nagbabakasyon kina Lola.
Nagkukuwentuhan kami, 'tapos sa gabi, sabay na nanonood ng TV.
Bago siya matulog, sisilipin niya kung tulog na rin ako sa kwarto.
Kung hindi pa, mamasahihin niya ang mga paa ko.

E, noong huling gabi ko sa bahay nila,
balak ko sanang biruin si Lola.
Magkukunwari akong nakakatulog na,
tapos bigla ko sanang kikilitiin siya.
Kayaaa laaaang...
Noong gabing iyon, ako pa ang ginulat niya.

Habang hinahaplos kasi niya ang paa ko,
narinig kong sinabi niya,
"Tingnan mo nga ito,
talagang nakuha ng aking apo ang paa ng kanyang Lolo,
maliit pero malapad sa may dulo."

Napadilat ako pero parang di ito napansin ni Lola. Kasi sabi pa niya,
"May mga hibla nga pala ng buhok
ang malaking daliri ng paa nitong apo ko."
Natawa si Lola.
"Marahil 'yan nakuha niya sa kanyang Papa."
Bawat daliri ng paa ko, inisa-isa niya. Natawa ulit siya.



"A, eto, itong maliit na daliri ng kanyang kanang paa
na parang nakahiga pa,
ito ang galing sa kanyang Mama."

Kinabukasan, noong sinundo na ako ni Mama at Papa,
nagsuot ako sa ilalim ng mesa.
Gusto ko kasing makita ang mga paa nila
habang pinapakain sila ni Lola ng merienda.
"Anong ginagawa ng bata sa ilalim ng mesa?"
Narinig kong tanong ni Lolo.
Agad kong sinilip kung ano nga ba
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Hmmm, *hmmm*...ang hirap makita!
"Naglalaro lang siguro siya," ang sagot naman ni Papa.
Sunod kong tiningnan ang malaking daliri ng paa niya.
Ngi, may buhok nga! Mukhang ang iba pa nito sa akin napunta!
"Hay naku, napakalikot niya talaga," ang dagdag pa ni Mama.
Sabay nakita ko na ang maliit na daliri ng kanyang kanang paa
ay talagang nakahiga nga.

Tahimik ako sa kotse habang kami'y pauwi.
Iniisip ko kasi kung
...paano ko nakuha ang paa ni Lolo?
(Ano kasi yung nakuha ko sa paa ni Lolo???)
...paano nagkaroon ng buhok ang malaking daliri ng paa ko?
(Si Papa talaga, oo!)

...paano napahiga yung maliit na daliri ng kanang paa ko?
(Paano kaya yun nagawa ng Mama ko?)
Sa sobrang tahimik ko, akala tuloy ni Mama may sakit ako.

"Anak, masama ba pakiramdam mo?" naitanong ni Mama nang nakapagpalit na ako ng pambahay sa kwarto,
"Ba't nakatitig ka 'ata sa paa mo?"
"Ma, paano ko po nakuha ang paa ni Lolo?" kaagad na tanong ko.
Parang napatulala ang Mama ko.
"Sabi kasi ni Lola, nakuha ko raw yung paa ni Lolo,
eh hindi ko naman po alam kung paano."
"Ah..." ang napangiting sagot niya, pero may dinagdag pa ako.
"Pati raw buhok sa malaking daliri ng paa ni Papa nakuha ko na,
at ang nakahigang daliri ng inyong paa, nasa akin na rin daw, Ma!"
"At Mama...Mama, bakit po kayo tumatawa?"

"Pasensya ka na anak," sabi ni Mama na medyo napapahalakhak pa.
Tumabi siya sa akin at ito ang ipinaliwanag niya.
"May mga katangian kasing naipapasa ang magulang sa anak,
tulad halimbawa ng hugis ng paa."
"Tingnan mo."
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"Pagmamana ang tawag dito," patuloy ng mama ko,
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"Pero," sabi pa ni Mama, "itong maliit na daliri
ng aking kanang paa, na parang nakahiga pa,
iyan namana ko sa nanay ko na iyong Lola."

"Pwede po ba yun, Ma, nagkakahalo-halo?" tanong ko.
"Oo," sagot ni Mama, "yan kasi ang nagpapakita na magkapamilya tayo."

Noong gabing iyon, tumingin kami ni Mama
sa mga litrato sa album.
Tangos ng ilong,
kulot ng buhok,
kulay ng balat,
lahat pala ng iyon naipapasa ng magulang sa anak!

Pati kamay na ginagamit sa pagsulat,
kaliwa man o kanan, namamana rin sa magulang.
Ako, sa kaliwang kamay ko hawak yung lapis ko kasi,
sabi ni Mama, kaliwang kamay rin ang panulat ni Papa.

"At alam mo ba," dagdag ni Mama, "namamana rin
ang kakayahan ng taong irolyo ang kanyang dila."
At biglang nilabas ni Mama ang nakarolyo niyang dila,
"Beeeeeeehhhhh!"
Natawa ako at nirolyo ko rin ang dila ko sa kanya,
"Beeeeeeehhhhh!"

Tawa kami nang tawa ni Mama kaya napasilip si Papa.
"Mukhang masaya rito a," sabi niya.
"Beeeeeehhh!!!" sagot naming dalawa ni Mama sa kanya.
"Uy, kaya ko rin yan!" sabi ni Papa,
at nirolyo rin niya ang kanyang dila.
"BEEEEEEEHHH!!!"
Lalo kaming nagtawanan.

*Si **Christine** ay mahilig sa mga "hobbit" pero nais niyang ipaalam na hindi naman mala-hobbit ang mga paa niya. Ang kwentong ito ay nagkamit ng "honorable mention" sa 2002 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize.*

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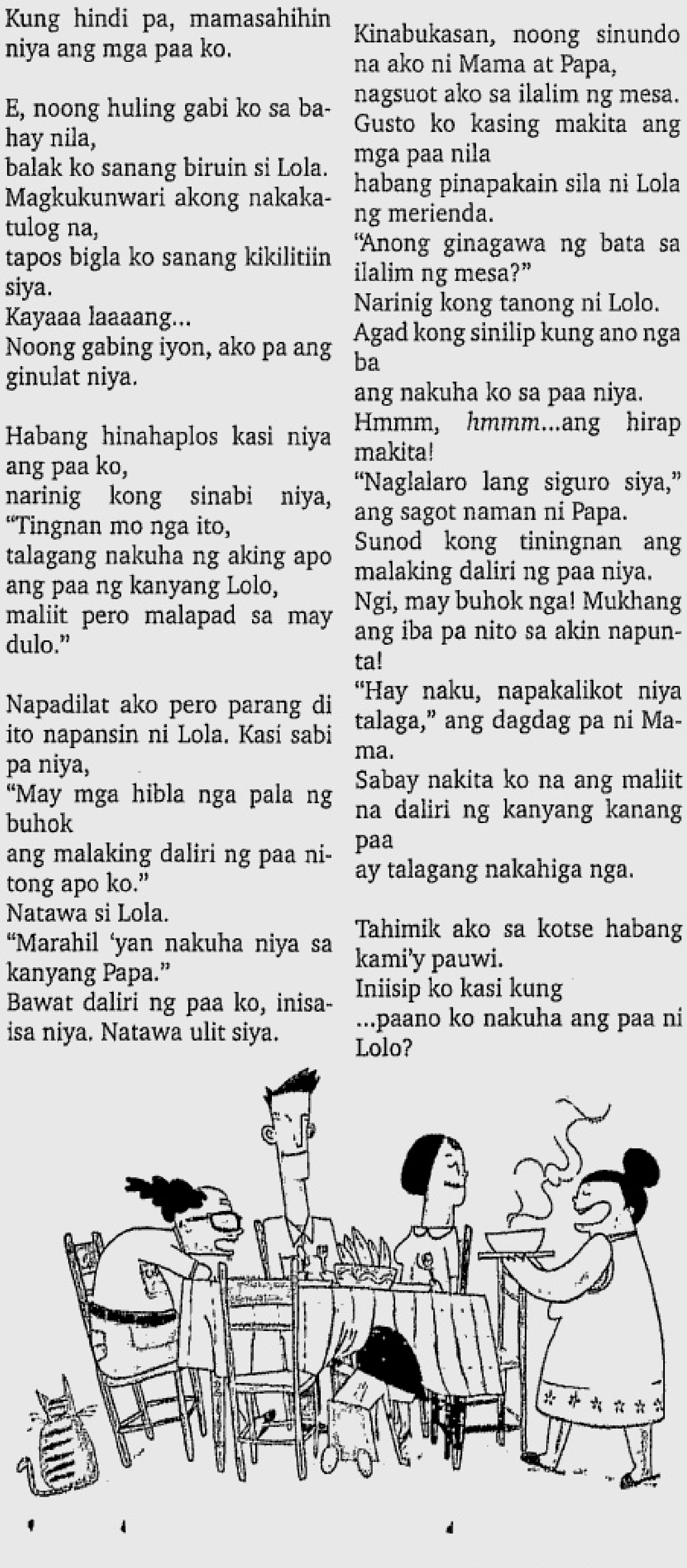

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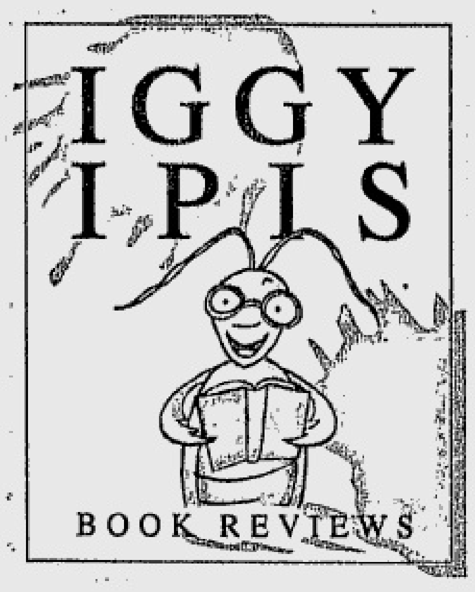

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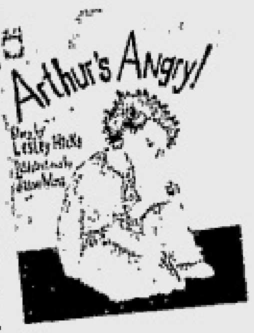
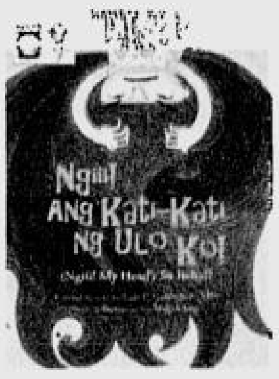


I felt a bit nervous reading **"Kraaak! Nabali ang Buto ni Ferdie!"** by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan. The part where Ferdie hurt himself made me want to cringe. But Ferdie gets better, of course, and reading about it certainly felt good!

"Ha-Ha-Hatsinggg!" also by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan is a story about Patrick's experience with yucky cold viruses. (Shudder) Reminds me a bit of SARS! But the story is very informative and tells how we can avoid getting sick.



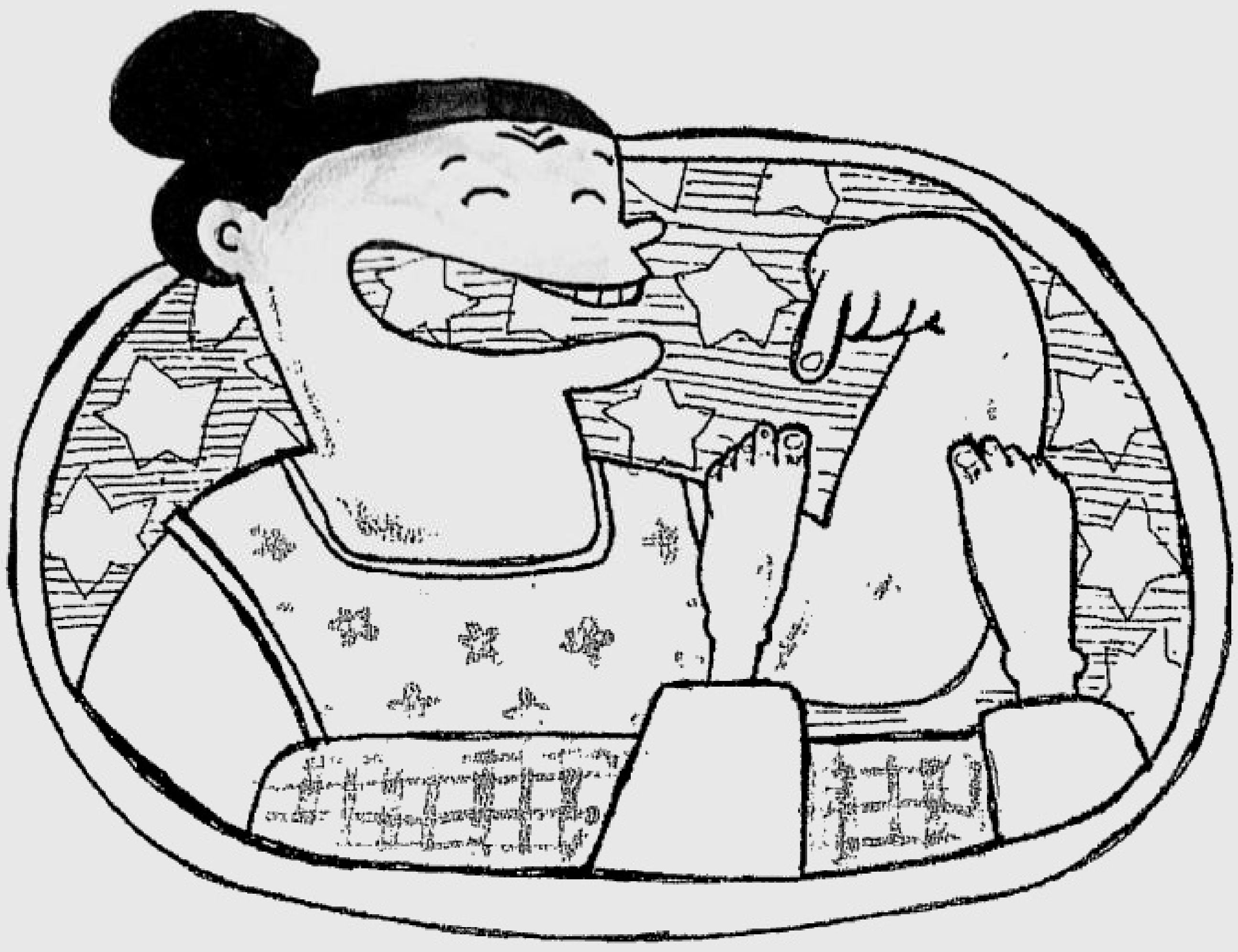
Beng Alba's **"Ang Batang Ayaw Maligo"** is about a funny boy named Popong who dislikes taking a bath. Sounds familiar? Popong doesn't take a bath for three days. Ewww! What finally convinces him? Like me, he doesn't want to be an Itchy Ipis, hehe.

Janet on the other hand is the little girl who keeps scratching her head in another book by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, **"Ngiii! Ang Kati-Kati ng Ulo Ko!"** Her itching, however, is caused by a different culprit: lice. Janet manages to get rid of them though. Read the book to find out how.

"Arthur's Angry!" by Lesley Hicks is a story about how one boy deals with his explosive temper in a Christian way. A bit preachy but the illustrations are cool.

So many books, so little time! Have fun reading everybody.

Ang Batang Ayaw Maligo
Ha-Ha-Hatsinggg!



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Nagkukuwentuhan kami, 'tapos sa gabi, sabay na nanonood ng TV.
Bago siya matulog, sisilipin niya kung tulog na rin ako sa kwarto.
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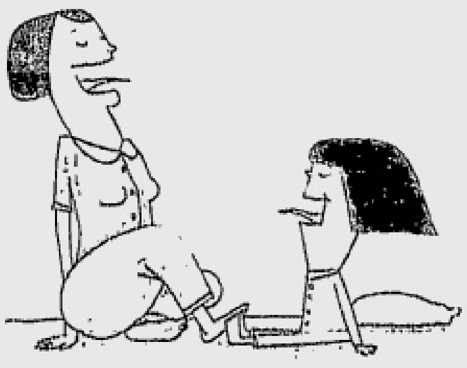

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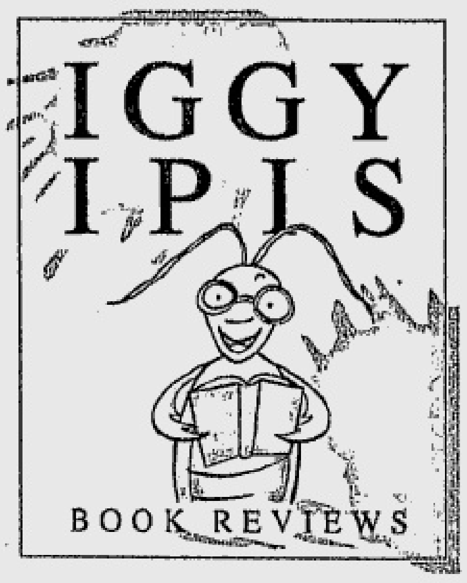

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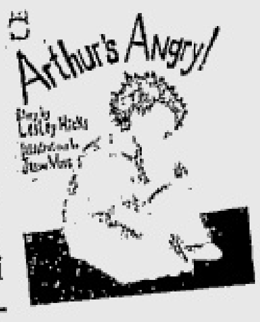
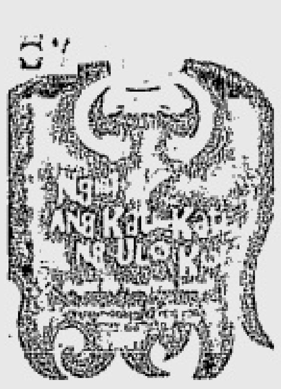


I felt a bit nervous reading **"Kraaak! Nabali ang Buto ni Ferdie!"** by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan. The part where Ferdie hurt himself made me want to cringe. But Ferdie gets better, of course, and reading about it certainly felt good!

"Ha-Ha-Hatsinggg!" also by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan is a story about Patrick's experience with yucky cold viruses. (Shudder) Reminds me a bit of SARS! But the story is very informative and tells how we can avoid getting sick.

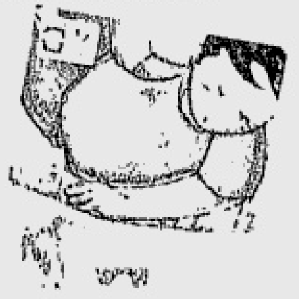

Ngiii! Ang Kati-Kati ng Ulo Ko!

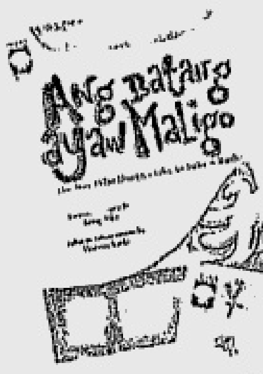
Beng Alba's **"Ang Batang Ayaw Maligo"** is about a funny boy named Popong who dislikes taking a bath. Sounds familiar? Popong doesn't take a bath for three days. Ewww! What finally convinces him? Like me, he doesn't want to be an Itchy Ipis, hehe.

Janet on the other hand is the little girl who keeps scratching her head in another book by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, **"Ngiii! Ang Kati-Kati ng Ulo Ko!"** Her itching, however, is caused by a different culprit: lice. Janet manages to get rid of them though. Read the book to find out how.

"Arthur's Angry!" by Lesley Hicks is a story about how one boy deals with his explosive temper in a Christian way. A bit preachy but the illustrations are cool.

So many books, so little time! Have fun reading everybody.





Ha-Ha-Hatsinggg!

Kids'r'rrific
STARS PLANET

HOORAH for books! Tristan with a few of his favorites at home. RANDY HORMILLOSA

TRISTAN'S TESTS

Whether it's his Attention Deficit Disorder or just school bullies, 10-year-old Tristan comes through with wit and spunk

By Eline Santos

"DID you know that weasels are related to skunks? They give off bad odors," says 10-year-old Tristan Yuvienco.

The fifth-grader from Claret School in Quezon City loves to read general-reference books and can spout trivia bits one after the other.

"Did you know that the smallest humming bird is about the size of a penny in diameter?" he asks. Barely pausing for breath, he continues, "The smallest snake is actually found in the Philippines. It looks like a worm but if you look closely you'll see it has black eyes."

Did you know...

Tristan learns a lot of trivia despite having mild Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. This means he gets bored or distracted easily. Tristan helps himself focus by being creative.

"I use Powerpoint presentations to study," he says. He also covers part of his test papers so he can focus where he needs to.

"I won a lot of medals in the Integrative School," says Tristan of his former school where his classmates also had special needs.

"It's more difficult in Claret," he says. "It's okay but there are challenges."

Part of the challenges are the bullies. The bullies do the "hammock thing," which Tristan describes as, "they pick me up by my feet and hands and swing me like a hammock."

School Bullies

He doesn't let it get to him though.

"I keep on commanding them to put me down. Sometimes to make them not carry me I make myself heavy by pulling myself down, *parang* increasing my gravity."

Bullies aside, Tristan really enjoys the big library at school where he can get all his juicy facts.

Tristan also learns a lot from watching science channels like Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, and National Geographic.

"Watch major documentaries. That way you'll get inspired and you'll read books too."

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
corner Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No. ____________________

Cristina's Cause

For broadcaster Cristina Peczon, a birthday is a day to give and not just receive

By Eline Santos

BROADCASTER Cristina Peczon likes to spend time with kids and celebrate her birthday with them. One reason is because they embrace her for who she is.

"They don't treat me differently. They don't have expectations," she says. And besides, "the happy smiles on the faces of the children are such a reward!"

Cristina is an anchorwoman of RPN Channel 9's 10 p.m. show called "Newswatch Now." For the past eight years she's celebrated her natal day with the children of White Cross Orphanage in San Juan at fun places like Museo Pambata, the Manila Zoo and Nayong Pilipino. This year was extra special because Cris celebrated with the animals too.

Her party was held at the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center in Quezon City, a shelter for animals in need of a good home.

About 60 orphans enjoyed popcorn, ice cream, and fried chicken together with friendly dogs and cats from PAWS, and butterflies at the butterfly farm.

Cris says it was her best birthday ever! And the kids thought so, too, with one slipping her a note that read: "Happy Birthday Ate Cris - Thank you very much. May you never lose your desire to help others."

Cat Lover

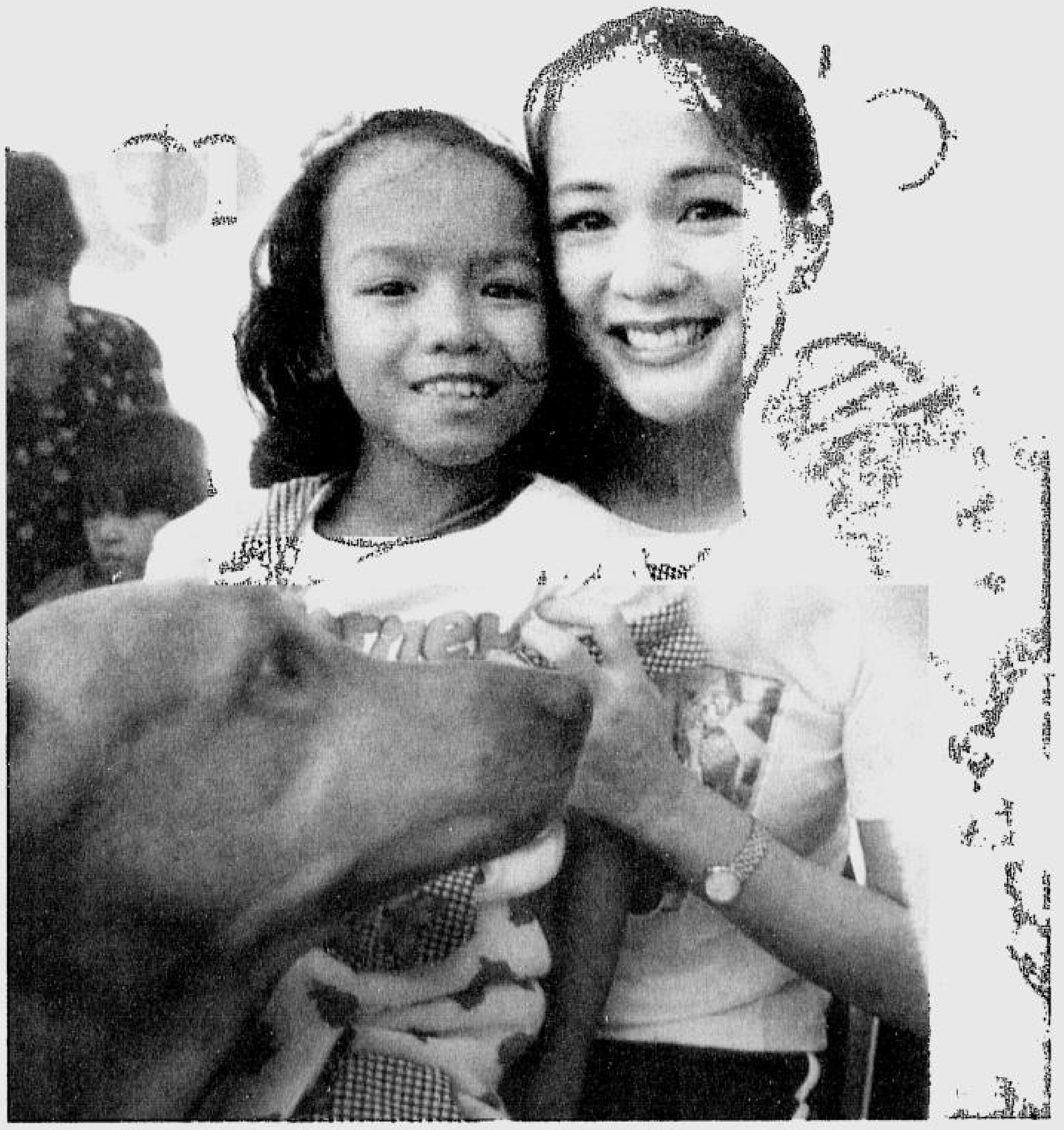
Cris has three cats—Lucky, Hershey and Takaneko—and two dogs, Snowy and Akita.

She only had dogs before but now she's a member of the Feline Fanciers of the Philippines.

"Cats have personality. I mean dogs have them too, but cats are different."

She then imitates how her cat gives her a look when they're displeased.

"They're not showy but they hang out where you are when they miss you," she shares. "They wait for me when I come home from work."



CRIS and kids from White Cross have a fun day with the animals at **PARC.** JOAN BONDOC

Lucky was her first cat, a scrawny little thing saved by Cris' mom from the gutter. Thanks to Cris' care, Lucky is now a 17-pound beauty. Tuna is his favorite treat.

ELLA doesn't let a fall stop her and wins as the fastest girl in the Milo marathon.

Pagadian stude wins 5k race in slippers

THEY were not glass slippers from a fairy godmother—just your regular rubber pair—but with them on her feet, 16-year-old Ella Cadion won the five-kilometer race of the 27th National MILO Marathon in Cagayan de Oro City.

"I really prefer running in slippers because I'm more used to it," Ella shyly explained in Visayan.

The high school student of Pagadian National High School tripped and fell during the race. Despite getting hurt, Ella kept running and came out as the fastest girl among 8,500 runners. She finished with a time of 21 minutes and 11 seconds.

"I wasn't really nervous. I just really wanted to run so I joined the MILO marathon," she said.

Last year, she won third place overall and took home a trophy and P1,500. This time, Ella won a trophy and P2,500.

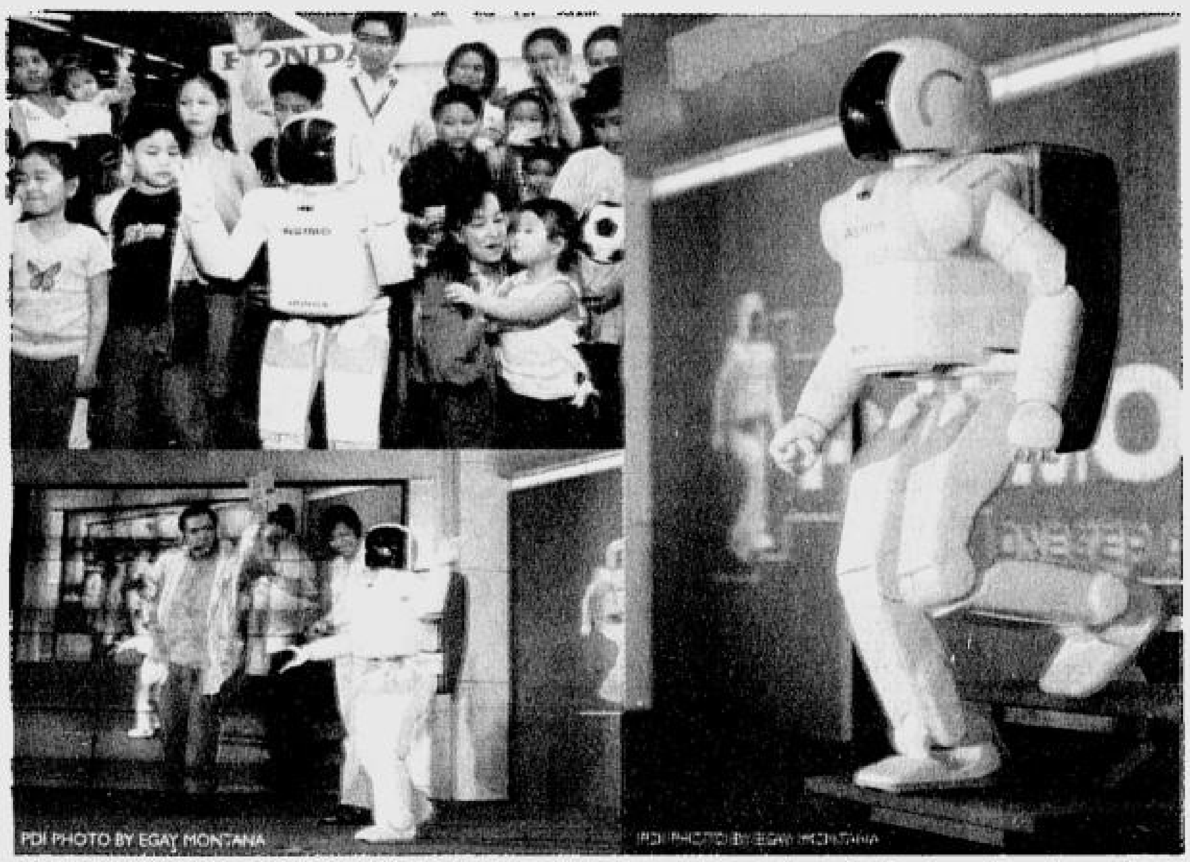
"I'm going to give the money to my Mama to help in our everyday needs," said Ella, the second child of nine siblings.

As for new shoes, Ella says, "I don't really want new shoes. They feel hot on my feet when I run. I'm not comfortable."

With a fighting spirit like Ella's, shoes and other needs are bound to come—even without a fairy godmother.

ASIMO visits the Philippines

(from page 1)


PDI PHOTO BY EGAY MONTANA
PDI PHOTO BY EGAY MONTANA

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: ASIMO walks down the stairs—looks easy but it took 14 years of research!; kids greet ASIMO at the airport during his arrival; and ASIMO does his robot dance.

ber 31, 2000. He has the most human-like walk for a robot, with an average speed of 1.6 kilometers per hour. He stands at 120 centimeters and weighs in at 52 kilograms.

On tour in the Philippines, the 3-year-old robot got to meet students from different schools in Luzon. ASIMO showed off how he could walk in different ways, climb stairs and even dance the "itik-itik."

Your Own Robot

JUNIOR INQUIRER asked kids what they would do if they had their own robot?

Some kids said they would get the robot to do household chores, help with the homework, and run errands. One student from De La Salle Zobel, Muntinlupa even suggested programming it for world domination.

"I would make him my playmate," replied Pio Angelico Encarnacion, a fifth-grader from First Asia Institute in Tanauan, Batangas. "Maybe we could play soccer in the house." .

Karen Solis, a sixth-grader from St. Joseph's Academy in Las Piñas, wanted a buddy to talk with all the time while Katrina Balan, a sixth-grader from Elizabeth Seton School in Las Piñas, said she would get ASIMO to help her shop for clothes.

Programmer? Cook? Hugger?

"I'll ask him to make lots of video games on CDs. I guess he could be my personal assistant," said sixth-grader Glo Anne "Gap" Guevarra from Makati Montessori Educational Center.

A guacamole freak, Gap plans to ask ASIMO to make her favorite food as well.

"I'd like also to see him give me bear hugs everyday," she added.

"ASIMO is so cool," said Ampie Elomina, a fifth-grader from First Asian Institute, who thought he might come in handy helping clean her room.

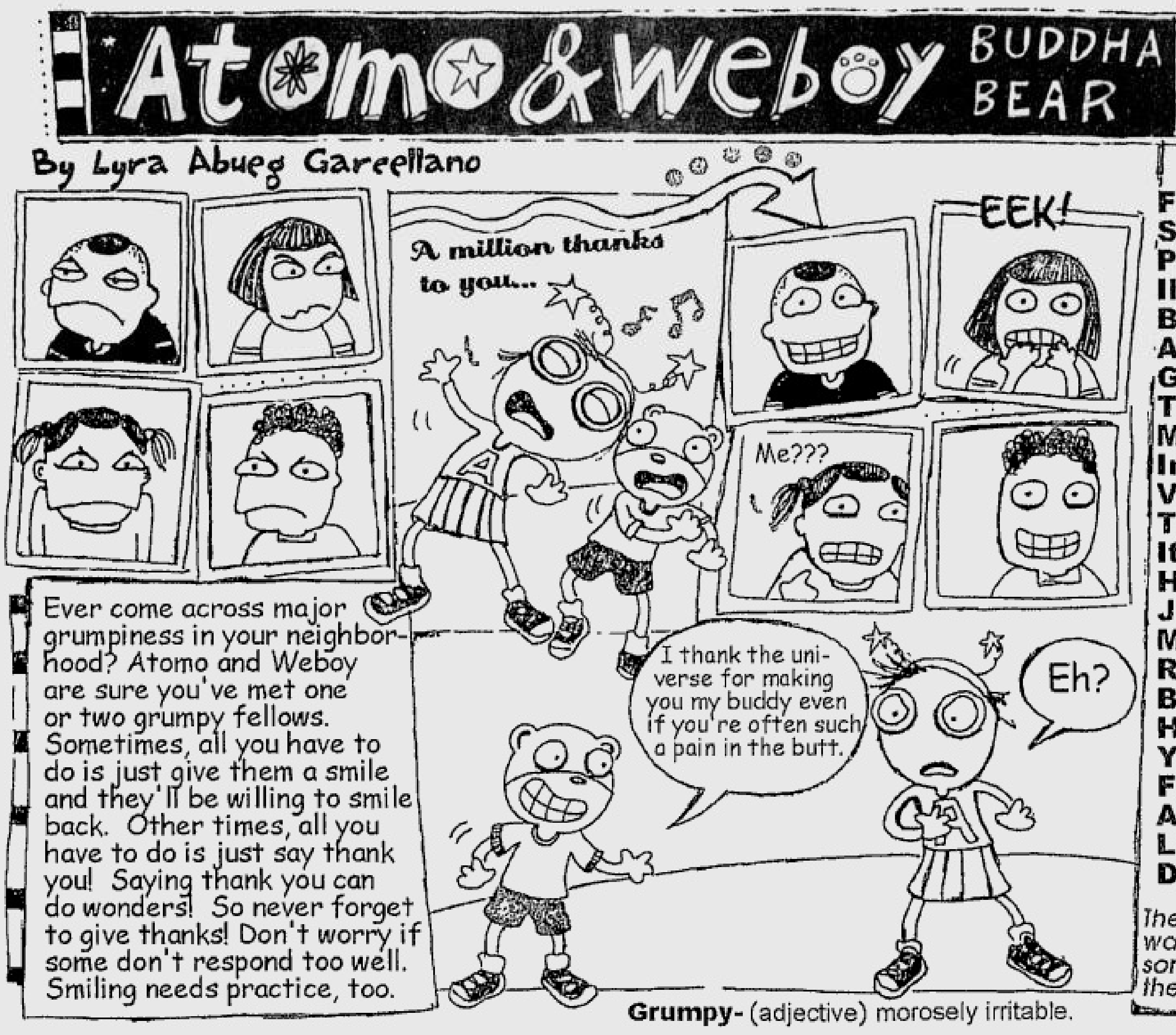
"I would get him to fix the things that I can't fix when there is not enough time," said Freilich Ezekiel Areola, a third-grader from San Beda College, Manila.

Arnel Doria, deputy head for marketing of Honda Cars Philippines, said they designed robots to be helpful to society. For instance, robots can go to places too dangerous for human beings.

Still, some kids, like Geraldine Ablaza, a sixth-grader from Elizabeth Seton School, prefer human help to machines.

"Robots, *kaunting kalabit mo*, they run out of batteries," she explained.

Which is the reason why ASIMO had to say goodbye for a while—he had to "eat" some electricity. When he's recharged again, kids can catch him at the Shangri-la Mall on Aug. 23 and 24.


Atomo & Weboy
BUDDHA BEAR
By Lyra Abueg Gareellano
A million thanks to you...
EEK!
Me???
I thank the universe for making you my buddy even if you're often such a pain in the butt.
Eh?

Ever come across major grumpiness in your neighborhood? Atomo and Weboy are sure you've met one or two grumpy fellows. Sometimes, all you have to do is just give them a smile and they'll be willing to smile back. Other times, all you have to do is just say thank you! Saying thank you can do wonders! So never forget to give thanks! Don't worry if some don't respond too well. Smiling needs practice, too.

Grumpy- (adjective) morosely irritable.

BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR GRATITUDE!

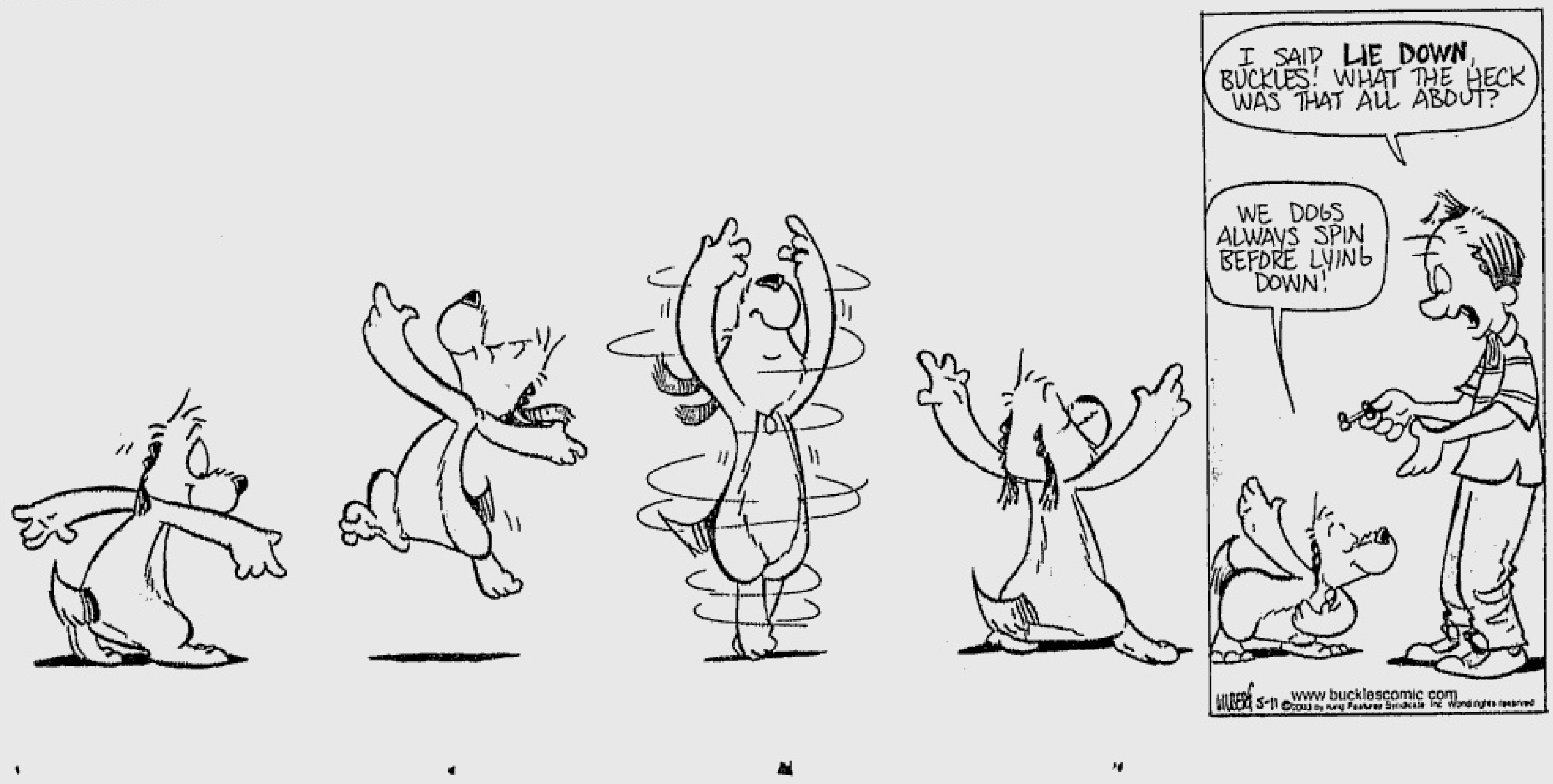
Different ways to say thanks!

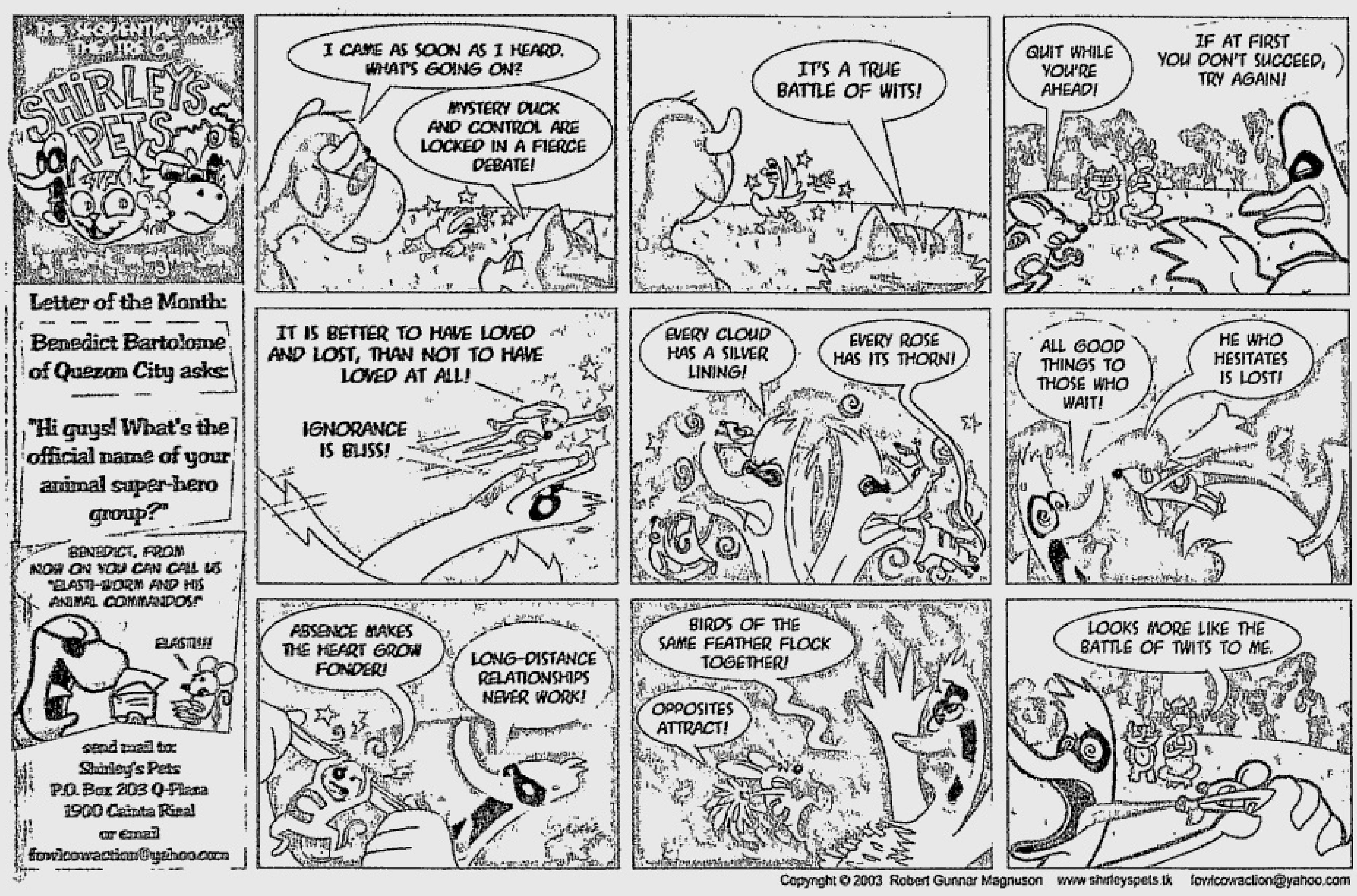
Filipino	Salamat
Spanish	Gracias
Portuguese	Obrigado
Ilokano	Agyamanac
Bicolano	Dios Mabalos
Arabic	Shukran
German	Danke schon
Tahitian	Mauruuru
Mandarin	Xie xie
Indonesian	Terimah kasih
Vietnamese	Cam o'n lam
Thai	Khoop-khun
Italian	Grazie
Hawaiian	Mahalo
Japanese	Arigato
Maori	Tika hoki
Russian	Spasibo
Burmese	Chezu ba
Hindi	Shukriya
Yiddish	Dank
French	Merci
Albanian	Faleminderit
Latvian	Paldies
Danish	Tak

There are more than a hundred ways to say thanks so if you know some more feel free to share them with us!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I SAID LIE DOWN, BUCKLES! WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
WE DOGS ALWAYS SPIN BEFORE LYING DOWN!
GILBERT 5-11
www.bucklescomic.com


THE SEQUENTIAL ARTS THEATRE OF
SHIRLEY'S PETS
I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD. WHAT'S GOING ON?
MYSTERY DUCK AND CONTROL ARE LOCKED IN A FIERCE DEBATE!
IT'S A TRUE BATTLE OF WITS!
QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD!
IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY AGAIN!
IT IS BETTER TO HAVE LOVED AND LOST, THAN NOT TO HAVE LOVED AT ALL!
IGNORANCE IS BLISS!
EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING!
EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN!
ALL GOOD THINGS TO THOSE WHO WAIT!
HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST!
ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER!
LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS NEVER WORK!
BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER!
OPPOSITES ATTRACT!
LOOKS MORE LIKE THE BATTLE OF TWITS TO ME.
BENEDICT, FROM NOW ON YOU CAN CALL US "ELASTI-WORM AND HIS ANIMAL COMMANDOS!"
ELASTI!!!

Letter of the Month:

Benedict Bartolome of Quezon City asks:

"Hi guys! What's the official name of your animal super-hero group?"

send mail to:
Shirley's Pets
P.O. Box 203 Q-Plaza
1900 Cainta Rizal
or email
fowlcowaction@yahoo.com

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THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

CHECK YOUR SHORTS

Must meet the MVP at the ATM...

We shorten a lot of words and phrases in our everyday speech. These 'shorts' are called "Abbreviations" (ah-bree-vee-yay-shuns). Do you know the meanings of the ones below?

○ moving vehicle parts
○ mashed vegetable pizza
○ most valuable player

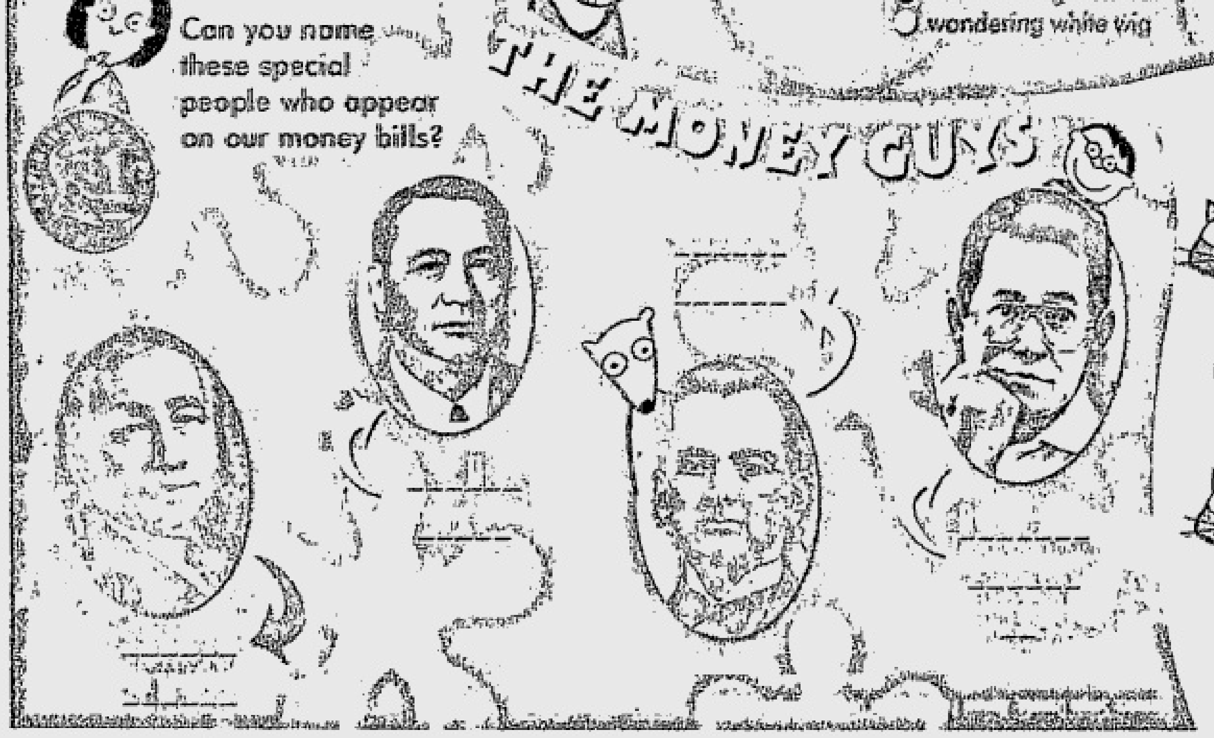
○ atomic tuna macaroni
○ automated teller machine
○ automatic tinker-maker

○ irate quacking
○ intelligence quotient
○ ice queen

○ worldwide web
○ wild whirling wombat
○ wondering white wig

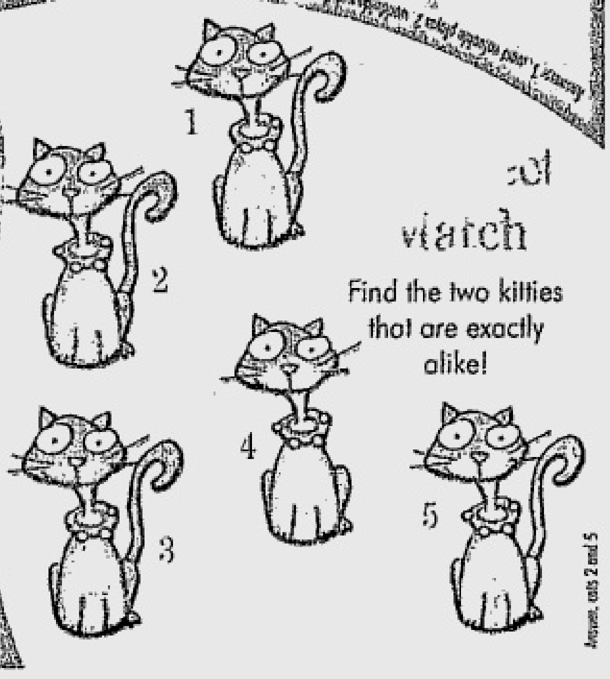
THE MONEY GUYS

Can you name these special people who appear on our money bills?

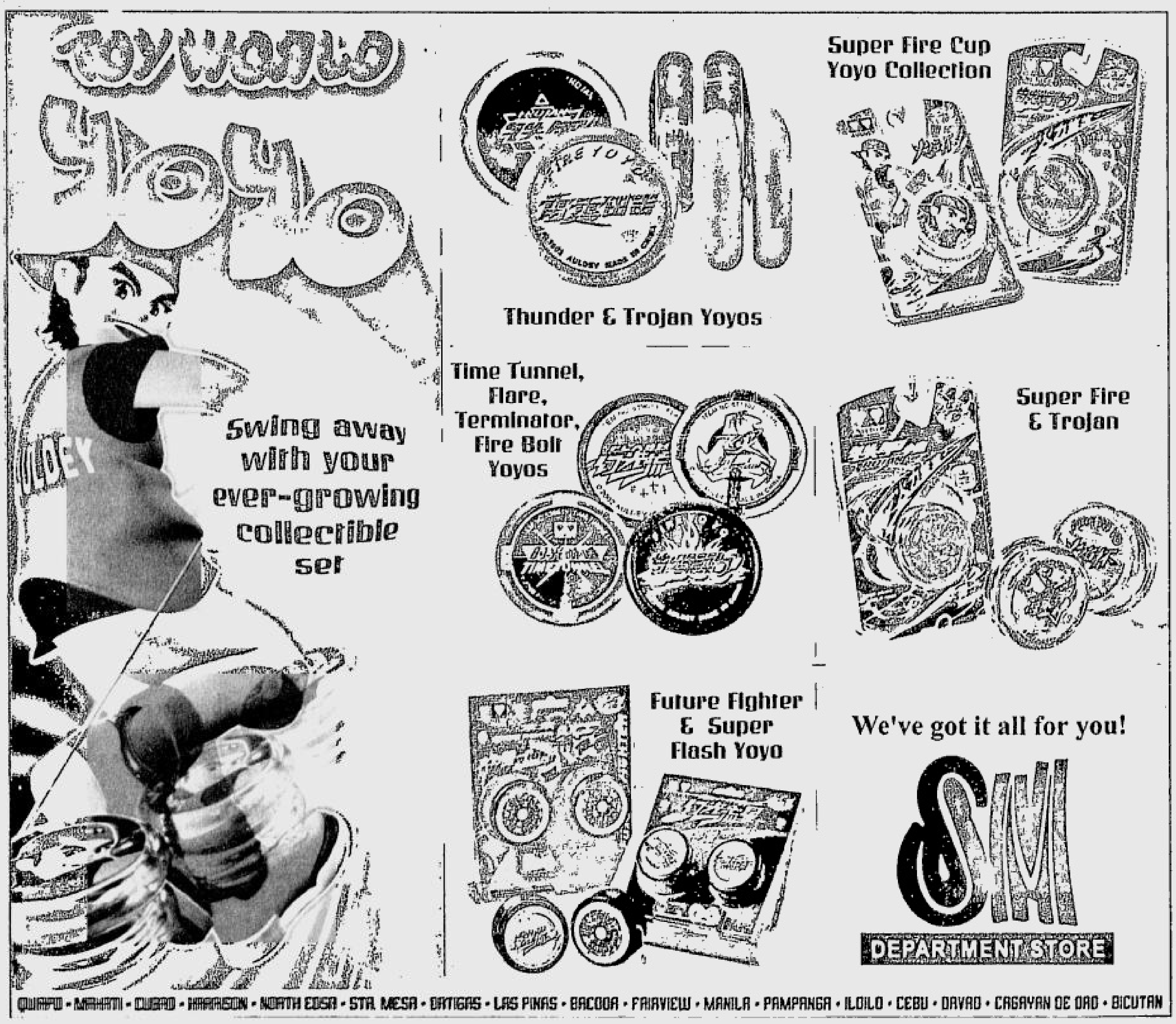


col
Match

Find the two kitties that are exactly alike!



Answer: cats 2 and 5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OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Workshops

ACTING AND DANCE. Join Trumpets Playshop's acting and dance classes every Saturday, ongoing until September. Kids can enroll in the following classes: **Music and Movement for Preschool, Children's Musical Theatre, animation, and street-dance**. Classes will be held at Stageworx, 5th Floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. For inquiries, call 636-2842 or 633-5010, or e-mail Playshop_admin@pacific.net.ph.

HAVE FUN AT JOLLIBEE. Exciting arts and crafts activities await Jollibee Kids Workshop Club members at the following Jollibee outlets: JB Grand Central on Aug. 2, JB LRT on Aug. 30, and JB RFM on Aug. 24. All workshops are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Jollibee Sumulong will also hold crafts workshops on Aug. 25 and 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Jollibee Robinsons on Aug. 23 and 30 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries on workshop activities, call 363-0495 or 367-8733.

Contests

CARTOON NETWORK PRIZE. Cartoon Network and the Metro Manila Mayors' League are accepting nominations to the Mayors' Awards of Excellence 2003. Schools and *barangays* may nominate kids ages 10 to 16 who have outstanding achievements in leadership, the arts and sports. All entries must be in by Aug. 30. For inquiries, call Perceptions at 891-3396/3556/3485.

POSTER-MAKING CONTEST. Join the **Citizens' Disaster Response Center's** poster-making contest, open to kids ages 7 to 9 (Category A) and 10 to 12 (Category B). Deadline for the submission of entries is on Sept. 15. Call 428-7860, 924-0386 or 929-9822 for more details, or e-mail rpidcdrc@i-manila.com.ph.

YOUR SAY ON NATURE. RCBC invites elementary students nationwide to join the 10th Kuwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan Short Story Writing Contest. Stories should be about caring for the environment. Interested kids can get an entry form from RCBC Business Centers, the Dept. of Education offices and selected schools. Submit entries to the nearest RCBC Business Center not later than Nov. 28. For more info, call (02) 894-9479 or 894-9000 locals 2730 and 2711.

Club

BE PART OF PSYSC. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs, Inc. invites young science enthusiasts to sign up for membership. The application is open to all elementary and high school students nationwide. PSYSC's affiliation campaign is ongoing until Sept. 30. For more info, call 920-8174 or 920-9561 and look for Linda, or e-mail psysc_inc@hotmail.com.

Theater

NATURE THEATER Museo Pambata presents a play based on the story **"Ang mga Anak ng Araw"** on Aug. 23, 2 p.m., at the Karapatan Hall. The book tells how nature and environment played a big role in creating different races of people. Meet award-winning author Rene Villanueva and illustrator Totet De Jesus.

PINOY MUSICAL. Supervoice Music and Theater Foundation, Inc. presents "Pabaon," **a play about children's rights**. The play will be presented in selected public schools for free from August to September. For playdate reservations and invites call 564-2667 or 0917-9377893.

Moving Forward with Bigger Dreams!

25 years of AVON in the Philippines

"We are privileged to be the stewards of Avon in the 21st century. This is a special moment in our company's history because our hard work and our belief will help create better lives and open new opportunities for future generations of women. But with this opportunity comes significant responsibility. Thankfully, we are guided by our vision, our mission, our values and our principles – reminding us of our starting point and lighting the way."

OurVision

To be the company that best understands and satisfies the product, service and self-fulfillment needs of women – globally.

Avon is committed to make a difference in the lives of women everywhere, serving them with integrity and building lasting relationships with them so that it can be truly called

the company for women

Join us as we celebrate the past 25 years and look forward to 25 more!

While empowering women to realize their dreams, Avon pays tribute to outstanding achievers. The prestigious Albee Award is given to a select group of President's Club members who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding Cosmetics, Fragrance and Toiletries sales performance.

Twenty-five Franchise Managers and twenty-five Franchise Dealers are honored for bringing the highest volume in CFT paid sales. Five Franchise Managers and twenty-five Franchise Dealers are recognized for achieving the highest CFT sales volume and percentage increase.

This award is named after the very first Avon Lady, the illustrious Mrs. Perseus Eames Albee, whose beliefs, successes and sense of achievement form the basis for the entire Avon business and culture. It is only fitting then that the Albee Award is the most impressive, most illustrious and highest tribute an Avon Lady could ever receive.

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LEGASPI / JEANETTE STA. CRUZ, LEGASPI / CATALINA MATUNDAN, LUCENA / LIGAYA MENDOZA, CEBU / ARLENE ONG, CEBU / VIVIAN VILLAMOR, CEBU / SULIETA ANG, DAVAO / TEODO
RANKING : CFT VOLUME & % INCREASE FRANCHISE MANAGER CATEGORY: ANNABELLE O. RICO, TAFT / EDGAR D. GARO, DAGUPAN / ROWENA S. DALANGIN, MALOLOS / CORAZO
DAGUPAN / ANGELITA C. SANTOS, CABANATUAN / BRENA A. DALMACIO, MALOLOS / SIMFRONIA C. CABUSAS, CAG DE ORO / TERESITA S. SANCHEZ, CAG DE ORO / MA. ELISA TABELON

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PALAO, DAVAO / ROLAND SALVADOR, DAVAO / IRENE BOZE, TACLOBAN / WILMA TORREMORO, ILOILO / LETECIA SAYAT, BATANGAS. **TOP IN CFT SALES VOLUME FRANCHISE DEALER CATE**
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M. DELOSO, DAVAO / FLOCERFINA T. MILLAN, DAVAO. **TOP IN CFT SALES VOLUME FRANCHISE MANAGER CATEGORY:** AMELIA M. CHAN, EDSA / AIDA P. MENDIOLA, EDSA / ZOSIMA G. F
CAG DE ORO / ARSENIO M. GOLOSINDA, CEBU / VILLIAN C. LOPENA, CEBU / SALLY B. MARANGUE, CEBU / MERCEDITA B. EVANGELISTA, DAVAO / CORONA H. MARISCAL, DAVAO / **MEDELYN**

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HI-TECH PACKAGING AND PRINT HOUSE

Industrial Offset Press, Inc.

The Garment District

Printwell, Inc.

TRADESPHERE
INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES, INC

Zubica Garments

Perry Mogar

The past will guide the future of Avon, because we know that how we succeed is as important as what we achieve.

Andrea Jung
CEO Avon

The past has been good to Avon Philippines.

In the last 25 years, Avon has established itself as the beauty company that best understands and fulfills the needs and dreams of Filipino women.

Under the outstanding leadership of Jose Mari Franco, Malu Dy Buncio, and the passion and commitment of hundreds of thousands of dealers, Avon has flourished in sales and reputation.

As I step into my role as the new steward of Avon Philippines, I will look back and build on these achievements. Together with our loyal and committed associates, dealers, and partners, we will set out on the Company's new bold mission of building the next generation of Avon for our customers. We will show a more contemporary beauty image. We will create exciting beauty products. We will provide superior earning opportunities. We will be committed to women's issues.

The task is daunting, but the rewards are great–just as you will read in the testimonies of inspiring Avon women we have on these pages.

Here's to the successful past and to the great future!

Your partner,

Perry Mogar

Perry Mogar
Vice President Philippines/Indonesia

My Avon business provided me with the opportunity to develop from a shy, unassuming housewife into a successful businesswoman and a responsible member of the community.

The financial rewards my family and I are enjoying are because of Avon. My success has brought me closer to God—the chief architect who made the grand design that guided my career all the way to the top.

As a result of all the blessings we have received from God, we have made a covenant with Him to help "the least of our brethren." Today, we assist Davao priests and parishes in need. The boys who reside in Boys' Town are also our beneficiaries. With the help of our son who is a doctor, we will soon realize our dream of opening a free clinic for indigent patients.

My 30 years of experience with Avon has made me a better businesswoman. I now have a proven formula for success that I share with my Franchise Dealers, many of whom have become very successful in their own Avon businesses.

I believe that when the products you sell are made by a company with a deep commitment for customer satisfaction and a proven track record in offering products of the highest quality, there is just no way to go but up.

Mercedita "Mercy" B. Evangelista
Franchise Manager, Davao

Avon has made me a good provider. My earnings have allowed me to send my son, grandchildren, nephews and nieces to school; support my siblings and parents, as well as help evangelical students become ministers. I was also able to build an Avon Service Center through which I am able to serve and help a lot of women.

Avon has even allowed me to help others achieve their goals. Using the skills I learned from Avon, I shared with women the earning opportunities available to them by selling great products.

Avon has also taught me important values like sharing, loyalty, loving the business, honesty, building lasting relationships with customers, and cultivating win-win relationships.

Today, universities invite me to share with their students the secrets of my success as an entrepreneur. I believe in giving back what Avon has so generously given in terms of training and seminars.

My experiences working with Avon has given me self-esteem, strength and confidence to face challenges in life.

Angelita "Angie" Cubos Santos
Franchise Manager, Cabanatuan

As a mother, I can now say that I can give my kids a proper education because I have saved for their educational plan. As a wife, I always look good for my husband. In Avon, there is no reason why I cannot work hard, earn a lot of money and look good at the same time. We have all the products to make us look younger and prettier.

I developed self-esteem and confidence because of Avon. I was given the opportunity to maximize my potential, and this is exactly what I share with people when I recruit them. Even before I started with Avon, I was already positive and optimistic. It was in Avon that these traits were reinforced because of the rewards I got. With all my experiences and the things I learned, I am in the best position to help others improve their lives while enjoying a great earning opportunity. For this, I thank Avon.

Mila P. Flores
Franchise Manager, Taft

I have become a source of pride to my parents and siblings. Because of my earnings with Avon, I was able to buy a farm and build a house for them. Today, my family is self-sufficient and my sister's future is now secure with a college education that I could only have afforded because of Avon.

Avon has also allowed me to help others improve their lives. The Avon Ladies that I recruited formerly had no stable jobs. In the beginning, they enjoyed the extra income. Later, when they realized they were earning more in Avon, they quit their jobs to concentrate on Avon. They are happier now because they have more to give to their families.

Avon's passion for achievement has turned me into a real leader who is creative, positive, patient, and more understanding of the uniqueness of each person. I never imagined that I would one day be able to speak confidently before a group of people. Thanks to Avon, what was before simply unimaginable is an everyday reality!

Sulieta Ang
Franchise Dealer, Davao

Avon has motivated and guided me to continue aiming high in life. Every sales meeting and conference I have attended lifted my spirit. My positive outlook has greatly influenced my family life.

Perseverance is one value I have learned from Avon. This has helped me grow my network of customers. Through the earning opportunities available to anyone who works diligently, Avon inculcated in me the value of rewarding hard work.

Relaying the value of hard work and its rewards has become my mission. I have actively worked with the church and with civic organizations with this mission in mind. Today, I assist the needy and focus my recruitment efforts on them that they too may join Avon and begin leading better lives.

Lerma Javelosa
Franchise Dealer, Iloilo

Avon has not only helped me acquire material possessions through my earnings, but Avon has also helped me become an inspiring leader.

By using myself as an example, I was able to encourage my Franchise Dealers to work harder. They see my life and they know they too can live a better and a more comfortable lifestyle.

Avon has also turned me into a mentor. Every time there is an opportunity, I share with new Franchise Dealers the skills and techniques I learned from Avon, which have proven valuable in growing my business.

Through my experience, I have also become a better mother. With my flexible work schedule, I have more time to attend to the needs of my children. I have taught them to become entrepreneurs and passed on the value of frugality to better manage a business.

Finally, my earnings from Avon also allowed me to help other people. Today, aside from having sent my brother and five cousins to school, I continue to support four churches and a seminarian.

Simfronia "Semie" C. Cabusas
Franchise Manager, Cagayan de Oro

Avon has transformed me from a housemaid into a successful businesswoman. I am a living example that you do not need a formal education to succeed in life. With Avon's help, along with hard work, passion and family support, nothing is impossible to achieve.

The motivation and trust given to me by the company constantly inspires me to encourage my dealers to become successful in their business through recruitment, good customer service, efficient delivery of goods, good business ethics and trust.

As a leader, Avon has given me the opportunity to bring out the best in each of my Certified Beauty Counsellors and Franchise Dealers. I was able to show by example how to work with passion and to give your all to achieve your goal.

I am really happy with what I have become through Avon!

Socorro "Coring" E. Rampas
Franchise Manager, Batangas

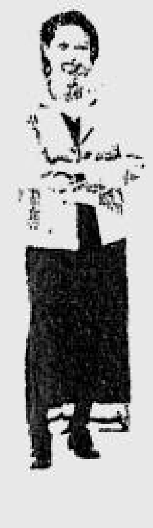
From a young inexperienced housewife, Avon transformed me into a successful businesswoman whose secret for success is motivating people to perform. I motivate people by inviting them to dream and with the help of my years of experience, I am able to guide them in fulfilling these dreams.

Avon has given me the privilege to be a teacher, a guide and mentor to Franchise Dealers whose lives have improved because of Avon's real earning opportunities. My family has grown to include my Franchise Dealers. The time and attention I give them is amply rewarded by their loyalty to me and to Avon.

My source of real fulfillment comes from stories of Franchise Dealers who are now able to send their children to good schools and purchase new homes and cars. One Franchise Dealer whose roof collapsed because of a storm came to me to say that it is a good thing that she earns from Avon so she can easily repair her roof. Another Franchise Dealer was able to easily buy an airline ticket for a child who wanted to work abroad.

The recognition events that Avon hosts for its sales force are a great source of fulfillment for my Franchise Dealers. Going up the stage, wearing beautiful clothes and being treated like a very important person by top Executives of the company make it worth all the effort and hard work.

Soledad "Sol" L. Peña
Franchise Manager, Taft



Being a single parent (a widow for almost six years) with 4 children is difficult. Really, it's not an easy job, *kasi magkano lang ba yong sweldo ko.* When I resigned, Ms. Dulce de Leon got me to be her Business Manager. Working with her group opened my mind *na talagang may pera sa* Avon. *Ang dali palang kumita sa* Avon!

So finally, I decided to be a Franchise Dealer with a difference—I wanted to be a top-seller under Ms. Dulce de Leon. My life changed since I became an Franchise Dealer. Freelance businesswoman, *ako ang Boss, hawak ko ang oras ko* and most importantly, *malaki ang kita, basta masipag at matiyaga ka! Nakakaluwag na kami ngayon* financially, and I have all the quality time with my children, especially when I opened a boutique in Pacita, San Pedro, Laguna. Avon changed my life!

Maclin Ramirez
Franchise Dealer, Las Piñas

The best earning opportunity can only be offered by Avon. I speak from experience. My children are able to go to private schools because of my earnings with Avon. People who looked down on us when I was just starting as a Certified Beauty Counsellor are looking up to us now because they have seen how our life has improved since becoming an Avon Franchise Dealer.

Only through Avon did we experience the "great things in life," like having a harmonious relationship with my family because we don't fight over financial problems. Because of Avon, we are able to provide all our children's needs not just in school but in their daily lives.

I always believe in sharing my blessings with others. That is why I always share with every woman I know the Avon earning opportunity.

Hermana Austria
Franchise Dealer, San Fernando

the company for women

Be part of an exclusive circle of Avon Franchise Dealers - get advance information on [illegible] product offers, and sales incentives plus a chance to win a Nokia cellphone. Text HELLO AVON REG <Account Number Account Name> (example: [illegible] ANA B. SANTOS) to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) to register. (P2.50 [illegible])
Interested to become an Avon Franchise Dealer?
Text HELLO AVON <Name Address Question> to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). [illegible]

Bringing You More Beauty Breakthroughs Than Any Other Company!

[illegible] products, Avon's world-class research scientists [illegible] evolution [illegible] skin care

As the beauty company most women turn to first, Avon continues to create not just new color palettes but breakthrough formulations that make your makeup look more vibrant, last longer, and make you look younger.

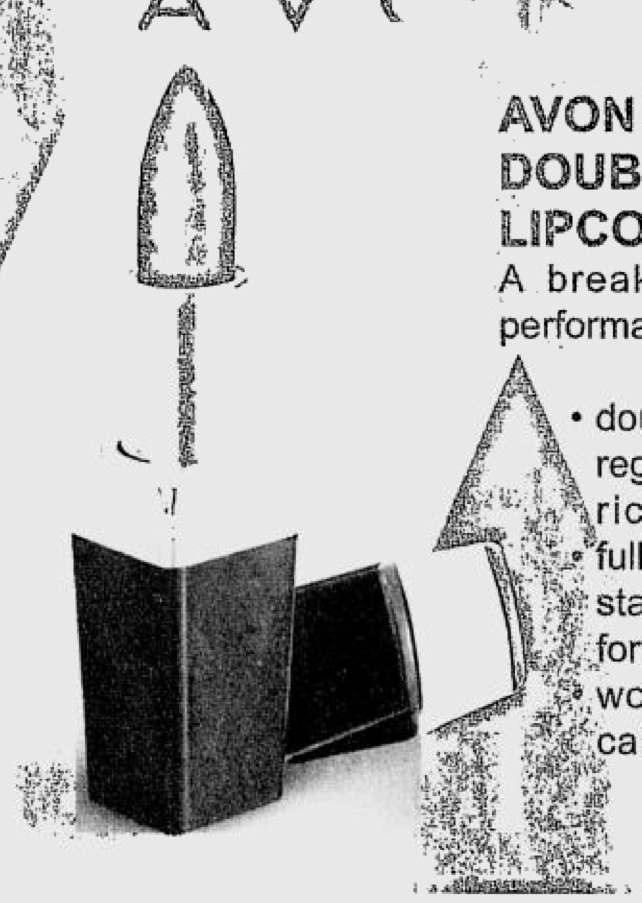
This year, Avon gives you more innovative, technologically-advanced beauty products!

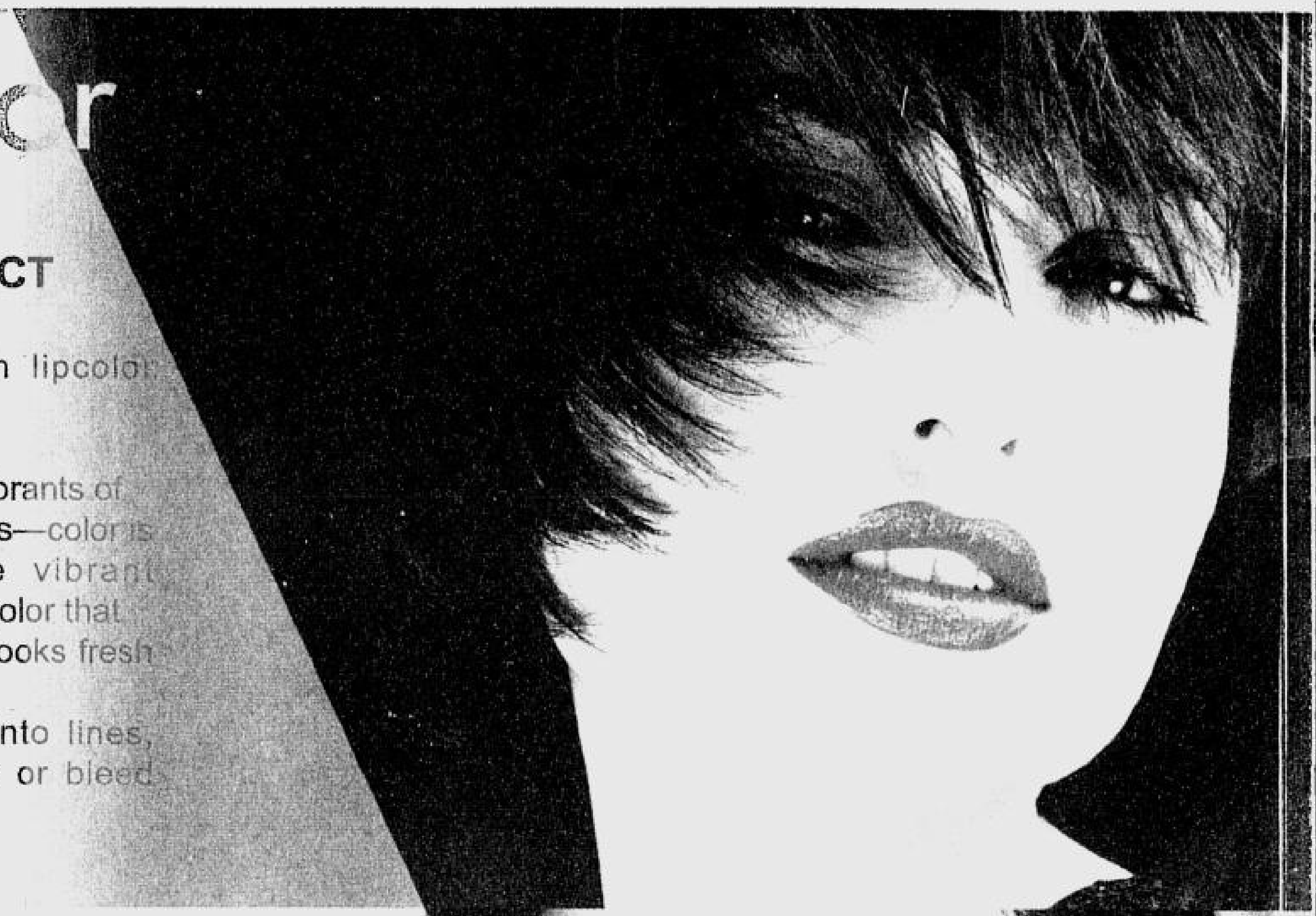
AVON color

AVON COLOR DOUBLE IMPACT LIPCOLOR

A breakthrough in lipcolor performance!

- double the colorants of regular lipsticks—color is richer, more vibrant
- full coverage color that stays on and looks fresh for hours
- won't settle into lines, cake, feather or bleed



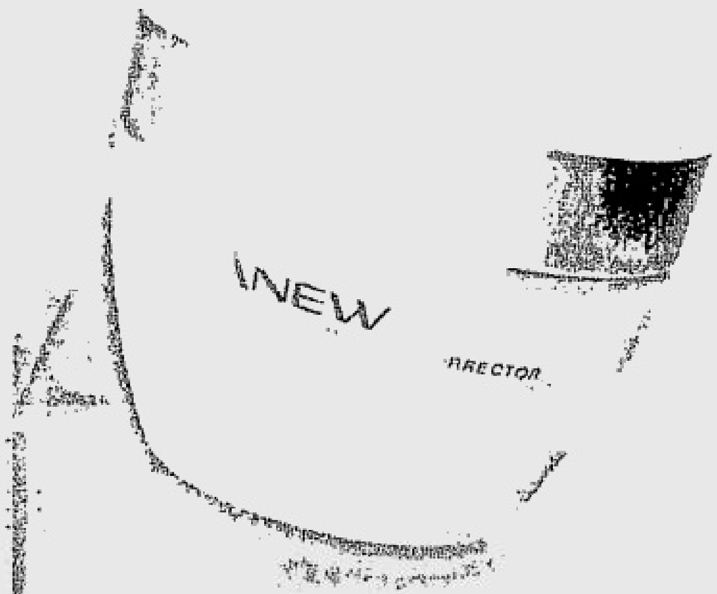


ANEW

LINE AND WRINKLE CORRECTOR

A super-charged, revolutionary formula that plumps up and fills in deep lines and wrinkles without any collagen or botox injections!

- Overnight:smoothens fine lines and wrinkles
- After 3 days:plumps out hollowed lines and wrinkles
- After 1 week:skin is more elastic, more resilient



Cellu-Sculpt

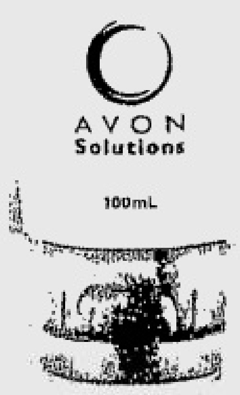
Up to 1 inch off your thighs in just 4 weeks!*

With continued use:

- thighs are tighter and firmer
- dimples disappear—no more "orange peel" skin
- cellulite is reduced by 60%
- inhibits further formation of cellulite

* result may vary from person to person.

Cellu-Sculpt Body Treatment



AVON

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